

Urusei Yatsura

Story & Art by
RUMIKO TAKAHASHI



Urusei Yatsura

4

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RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

Urusei[★] Yatsura

★
Part 7



The background of the page is decorated with several light gray stars of varying sizes. There are two small stars at the top, a medium star on the left, a large star in the upper left, a medium star on the right, and a very large star at the bottom center.

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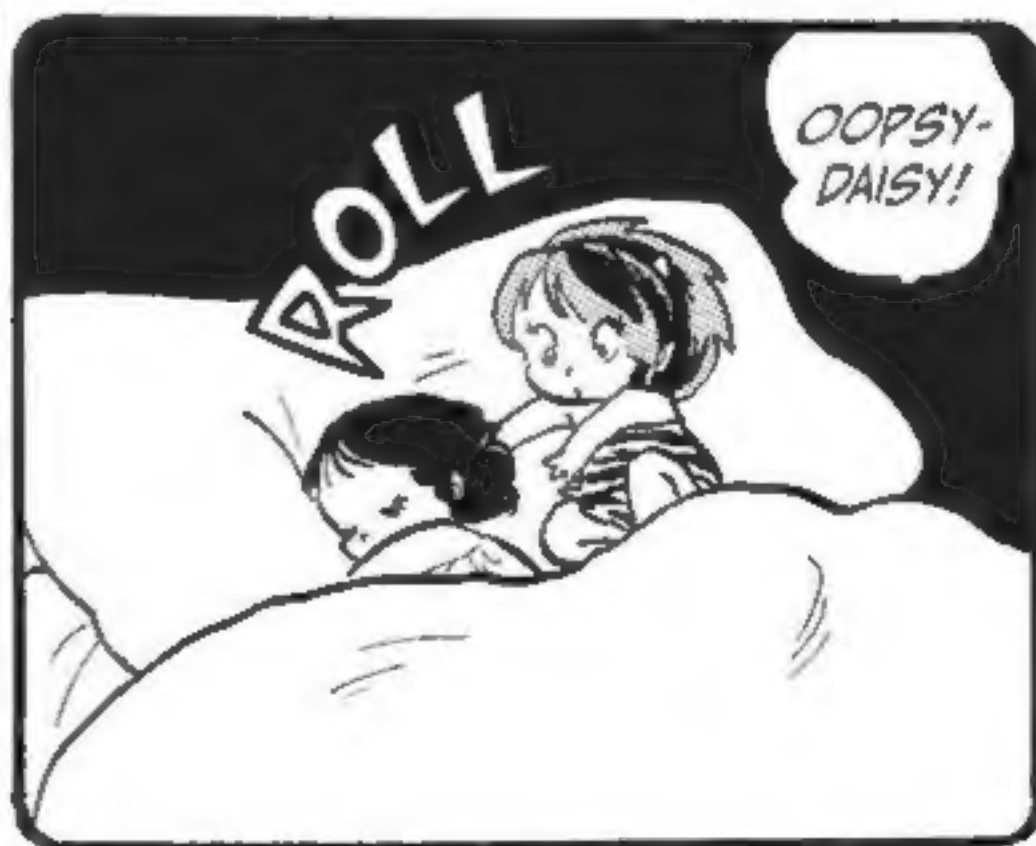
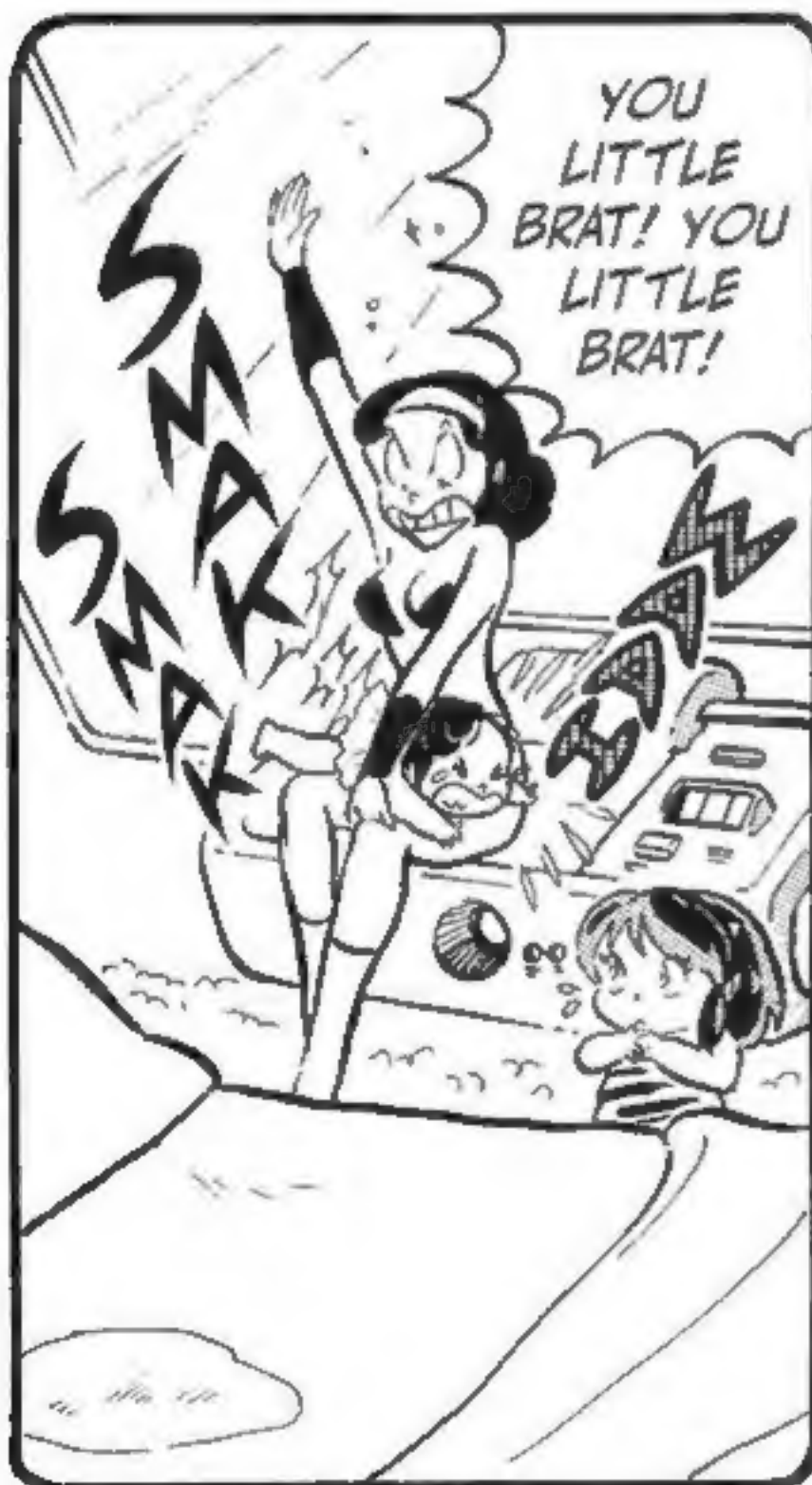
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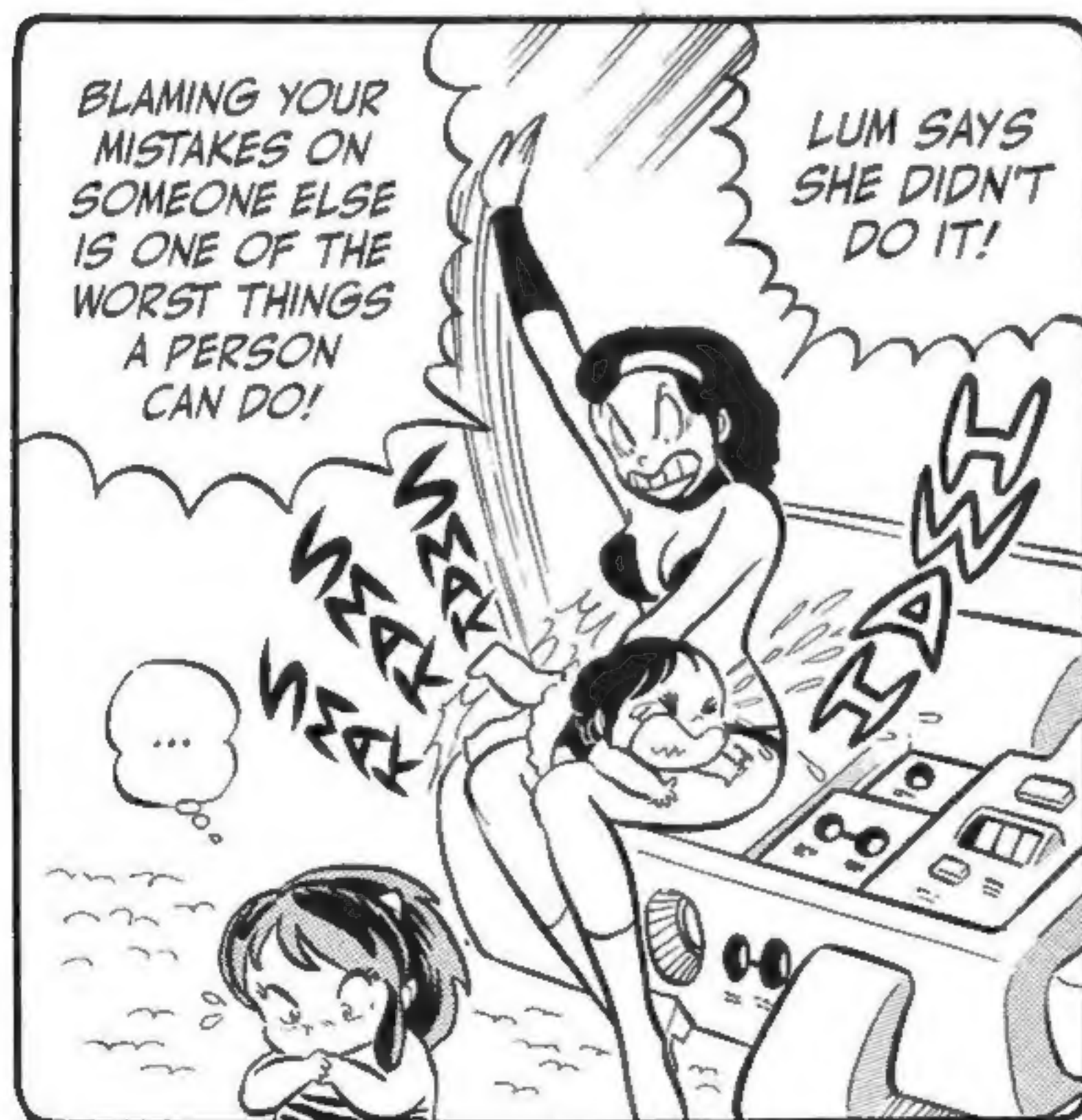
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CHAPTER 1: MEMORIES AND A CLOSE CALL



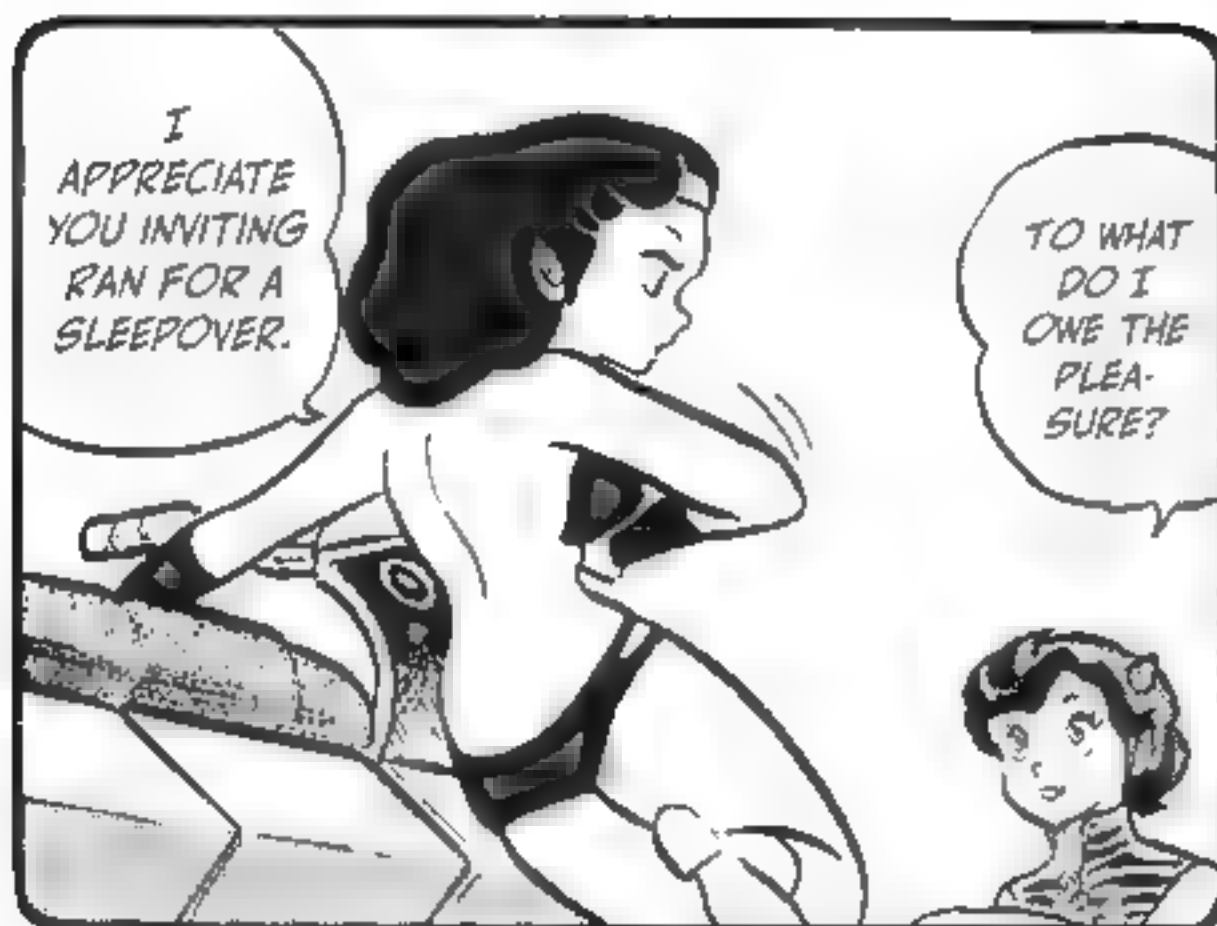


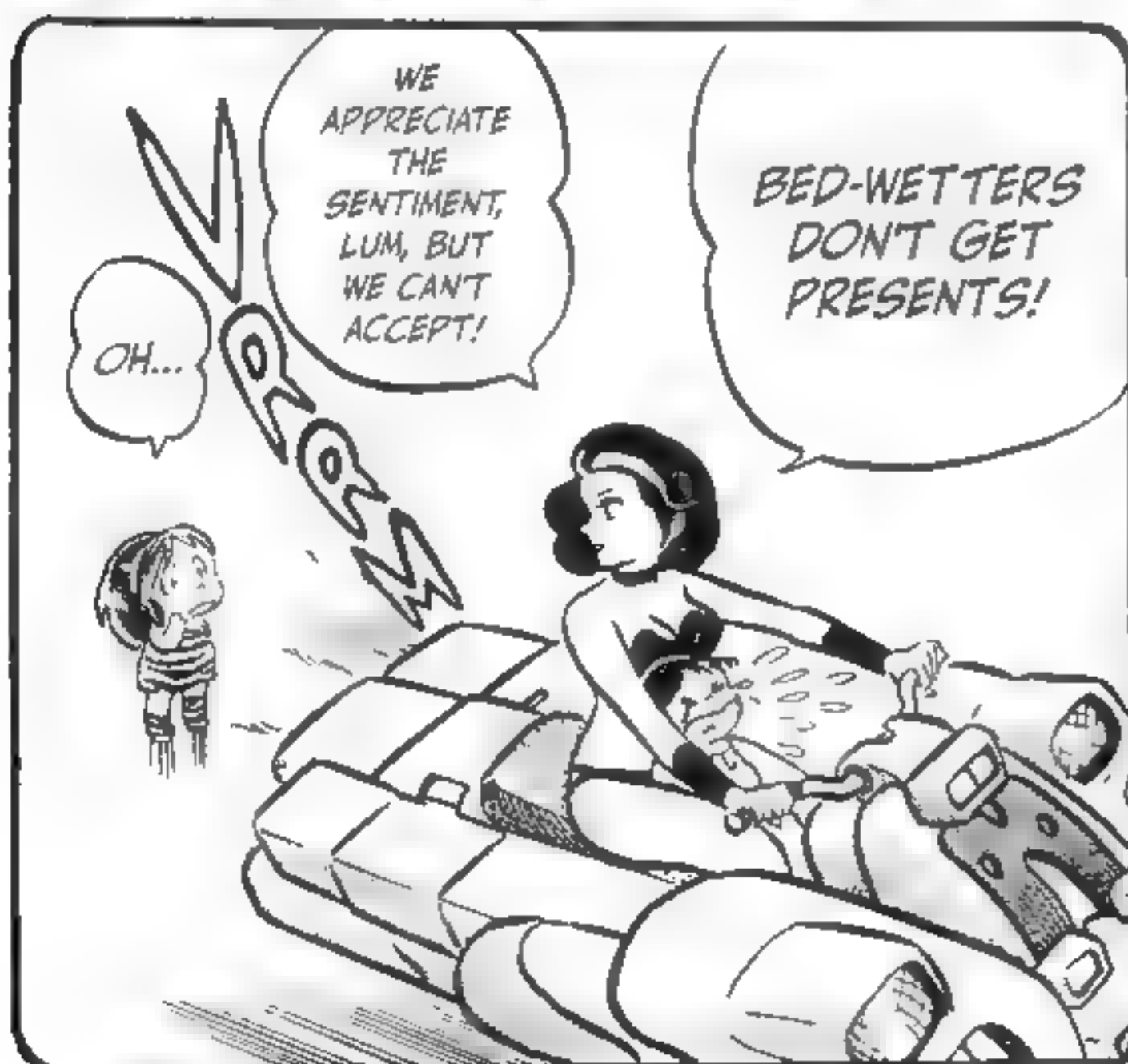


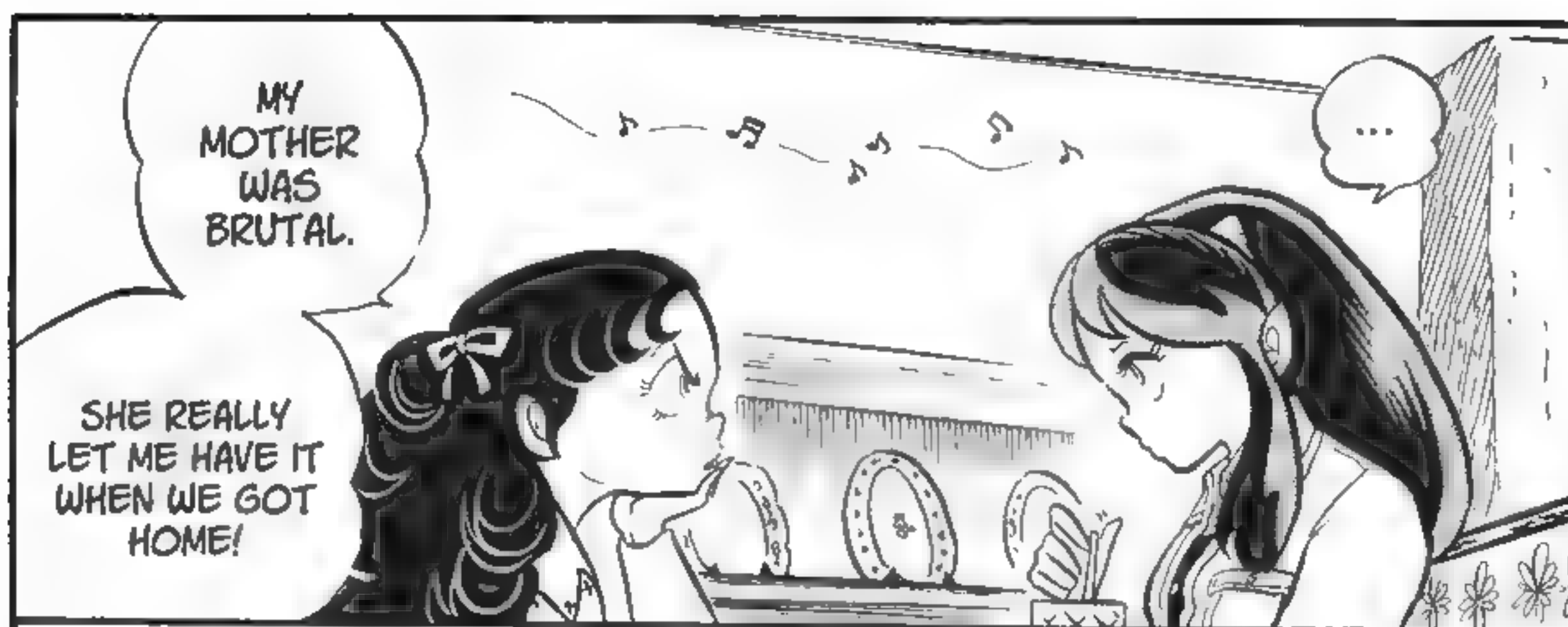


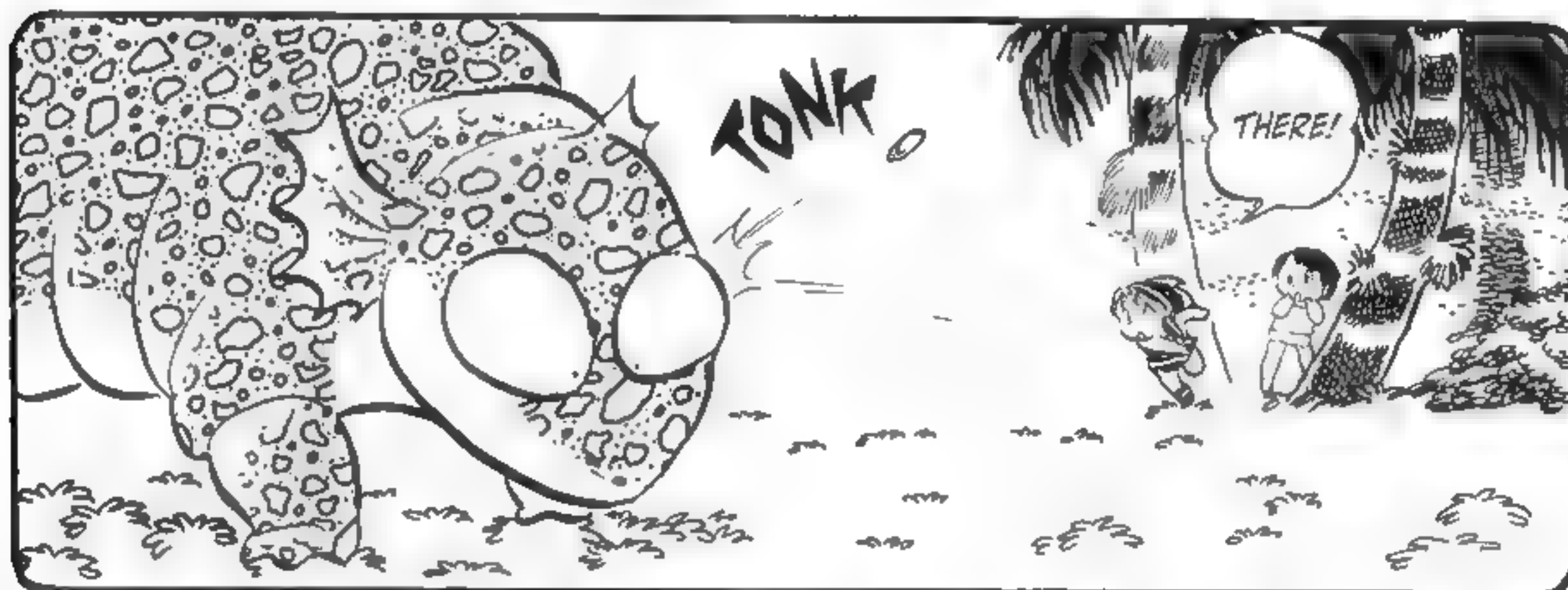


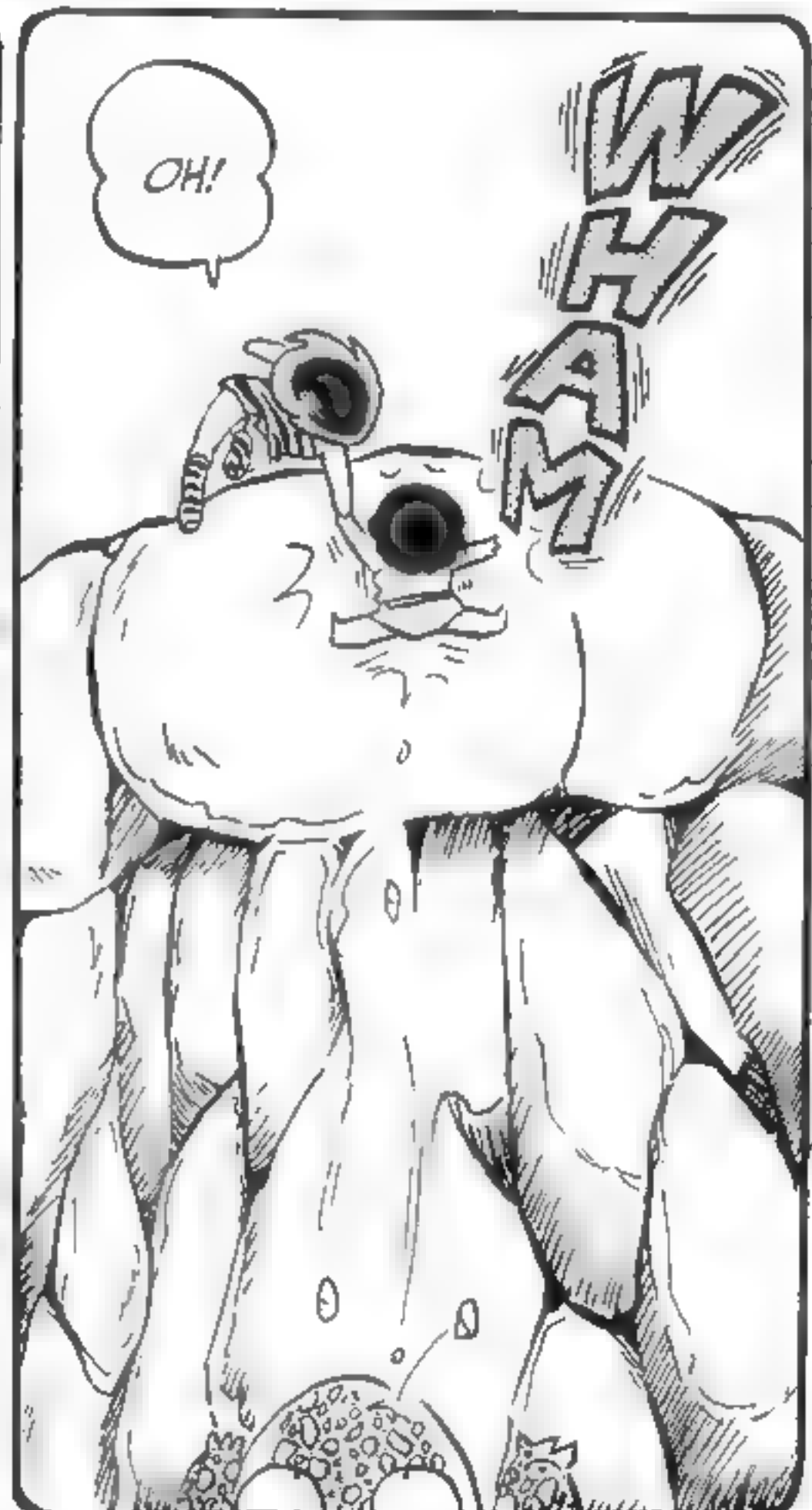
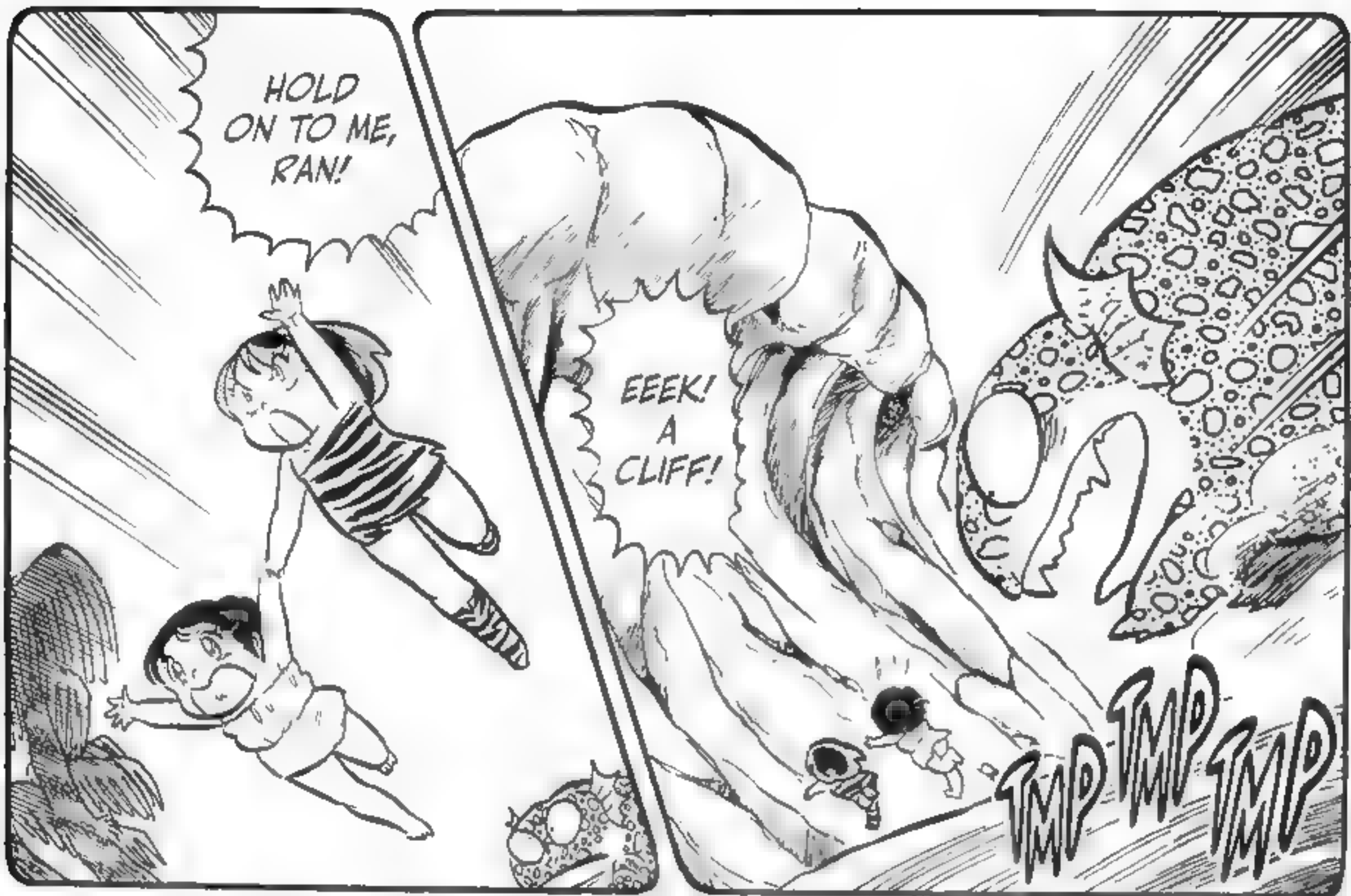


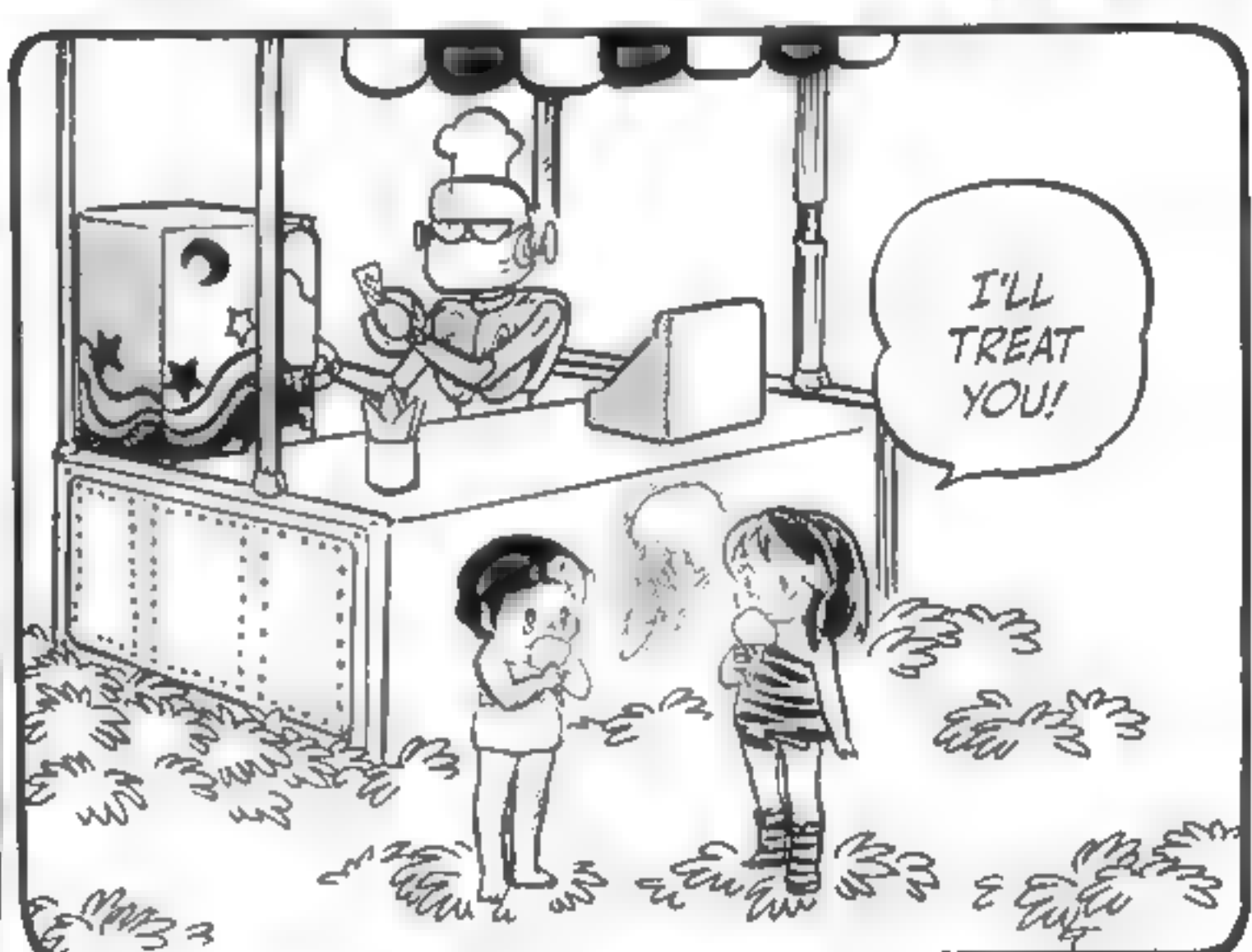
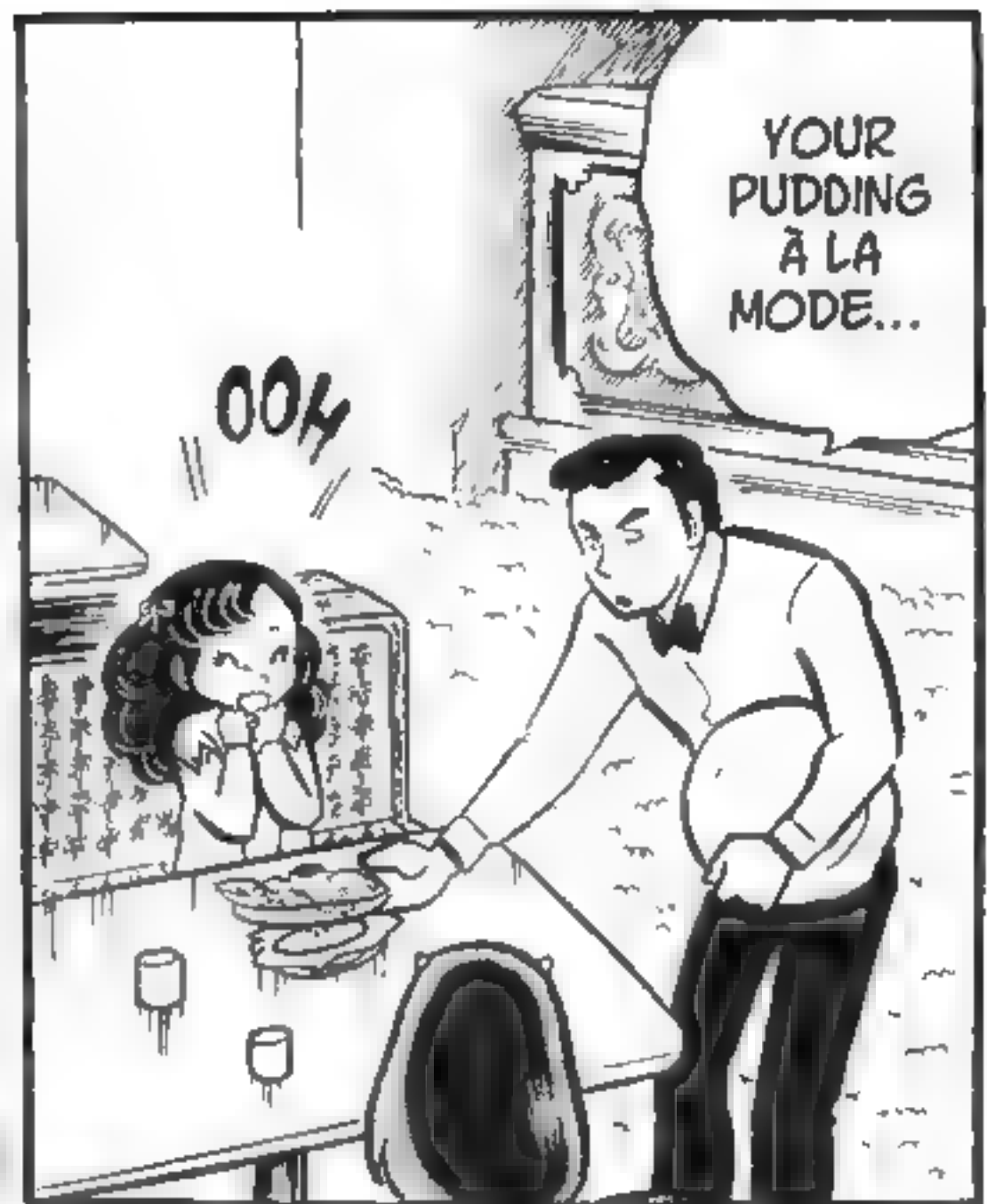




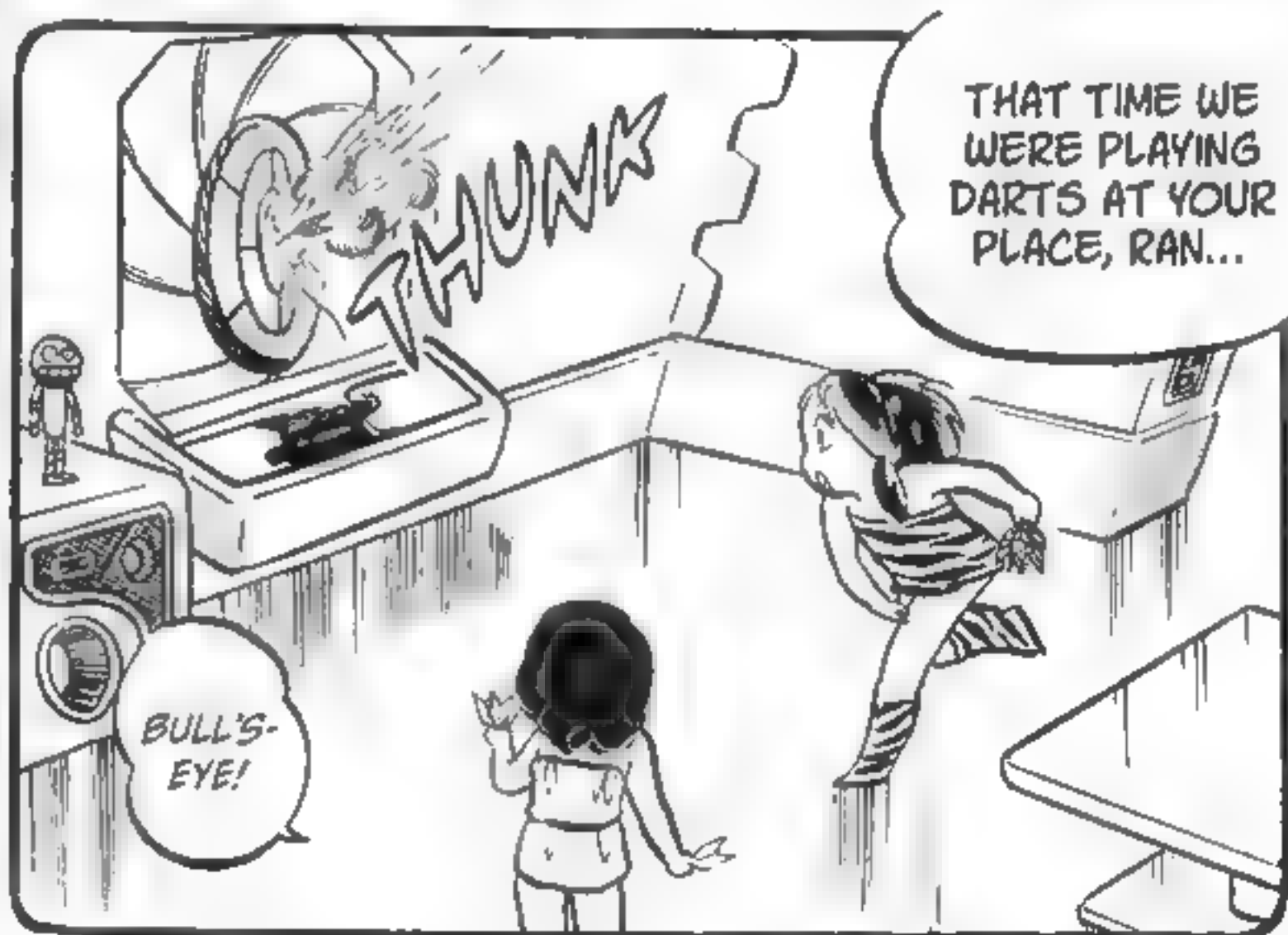
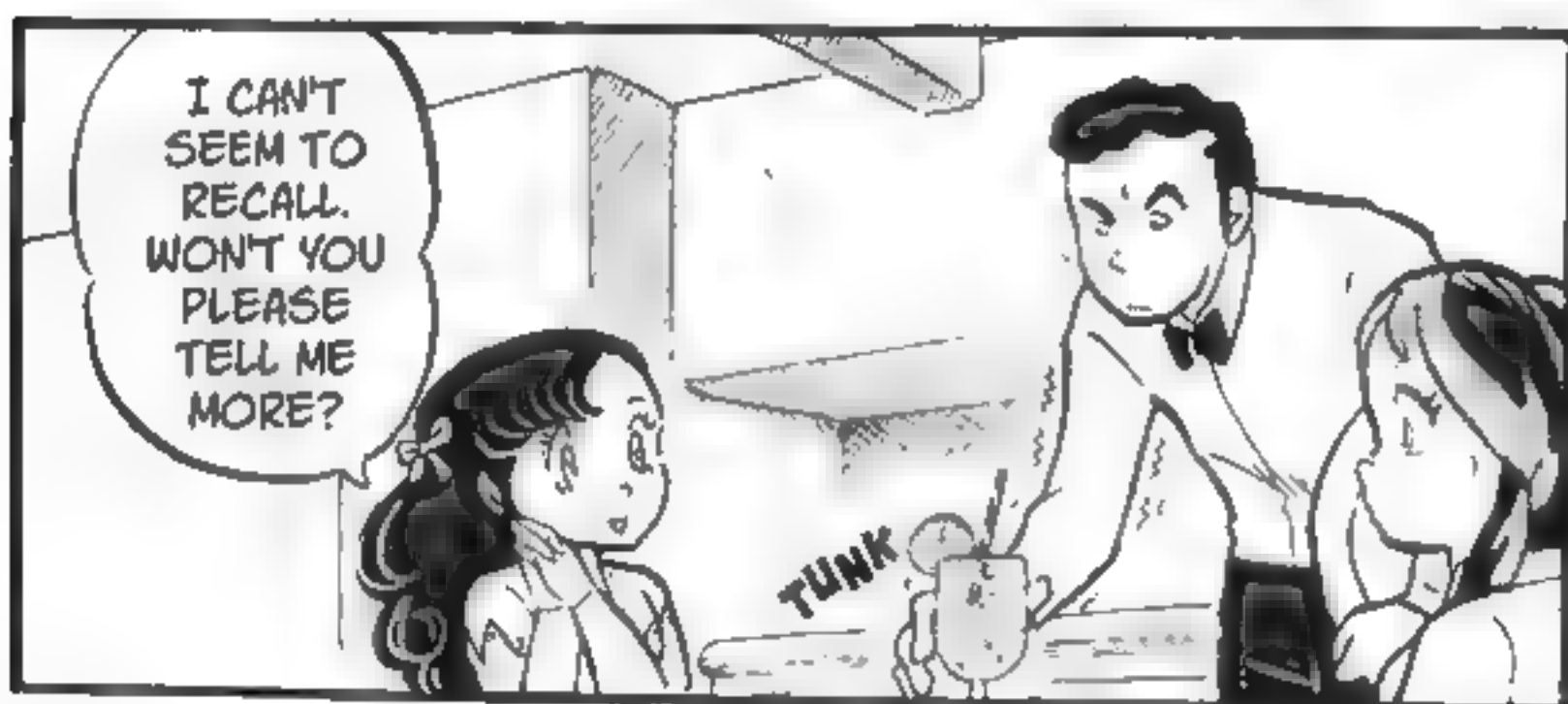












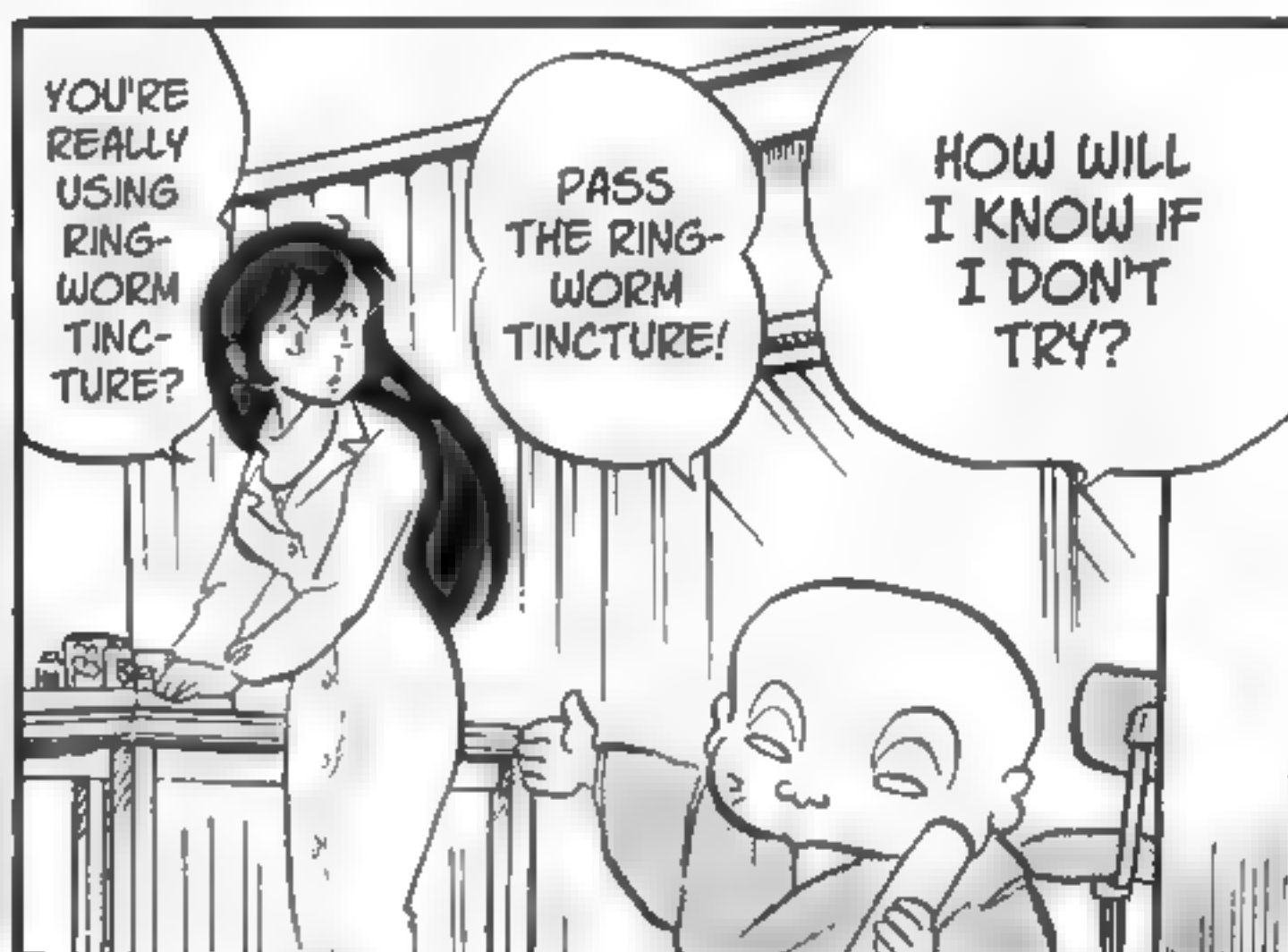


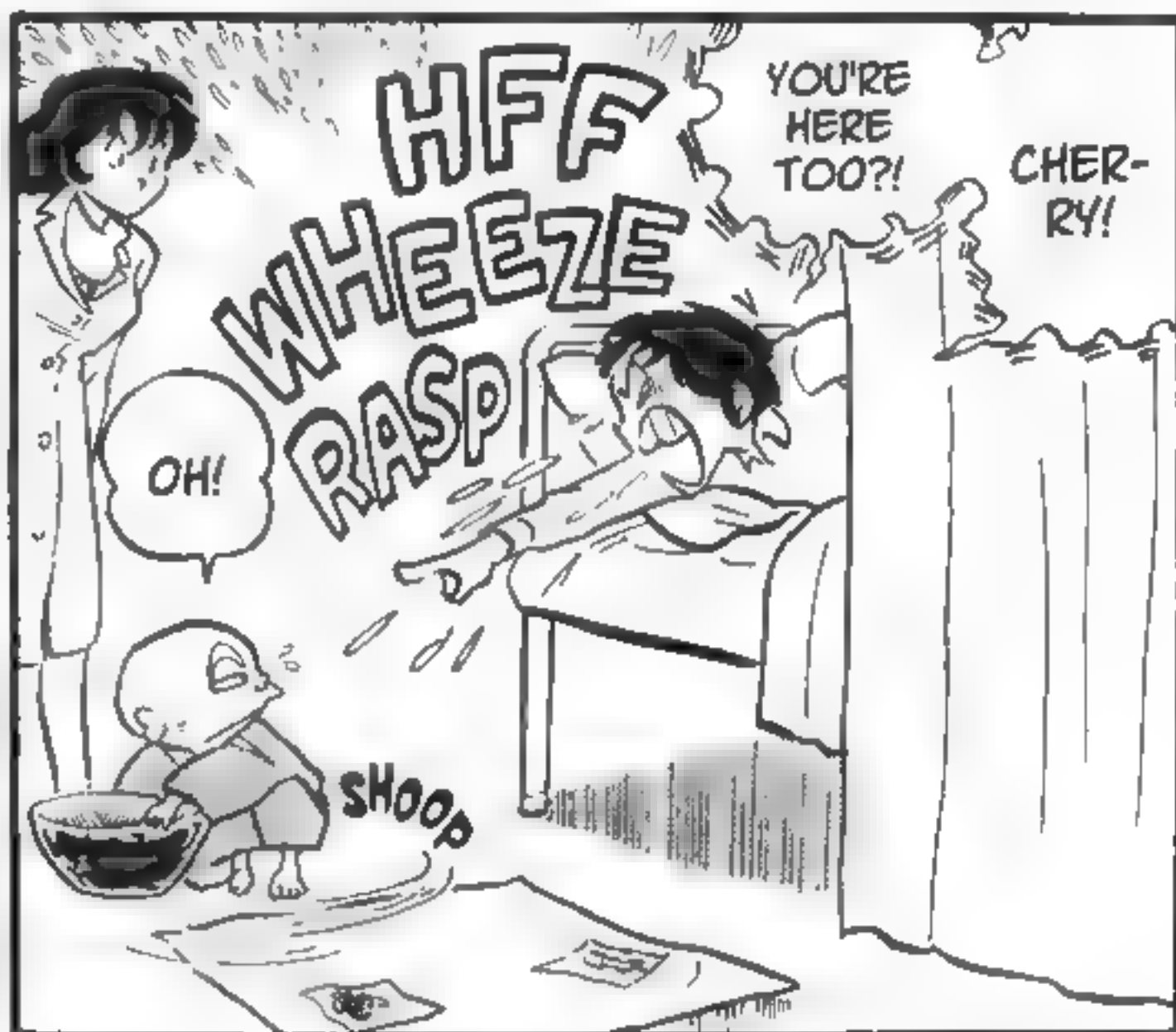


CHAPTER 2: GENUINE CLOSE CALL

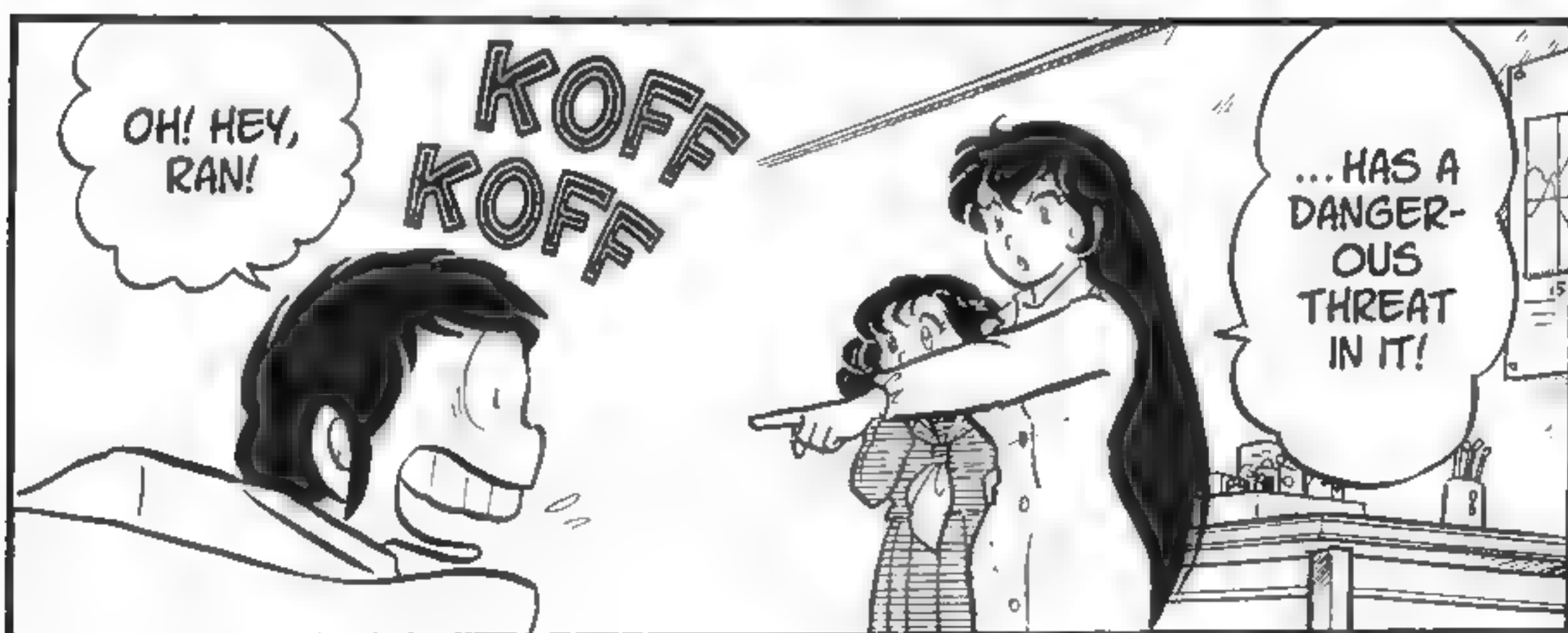








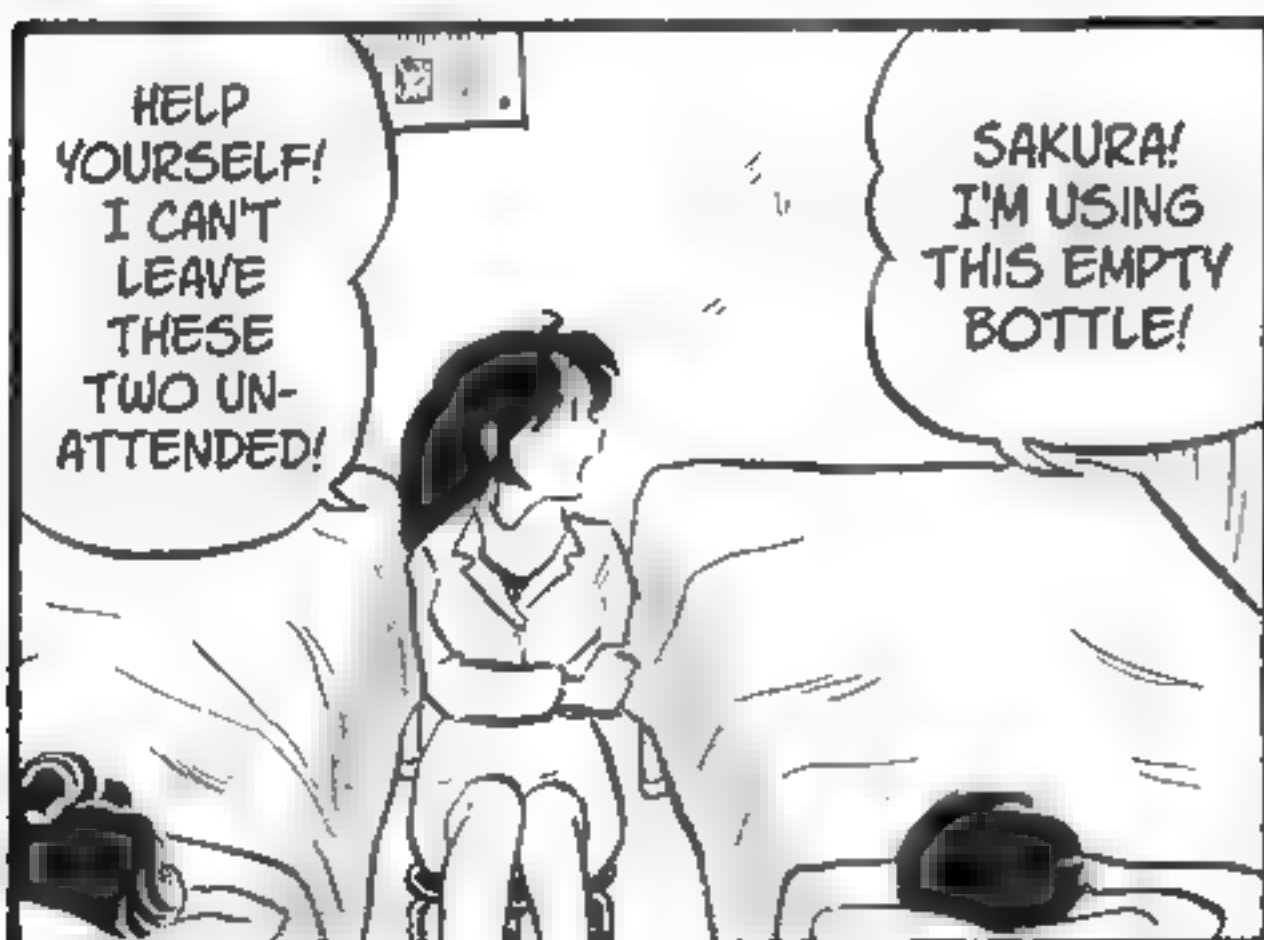
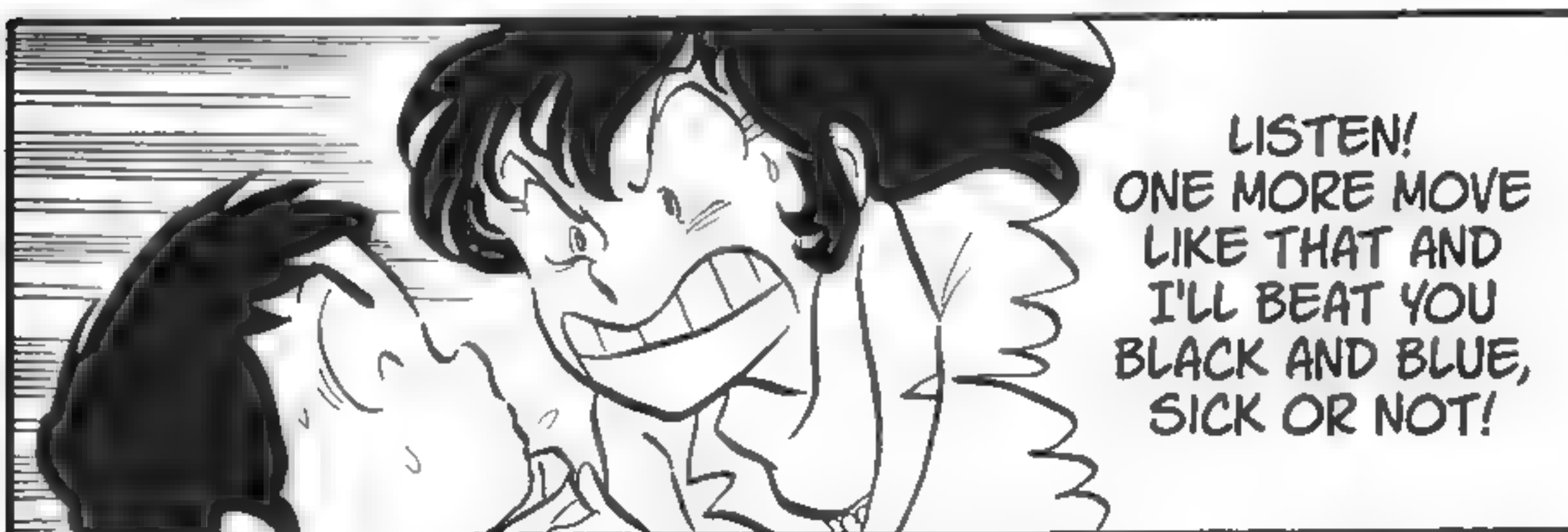






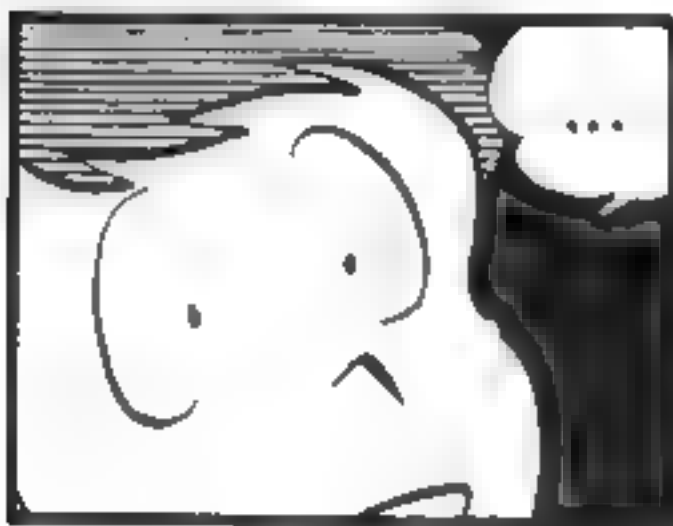
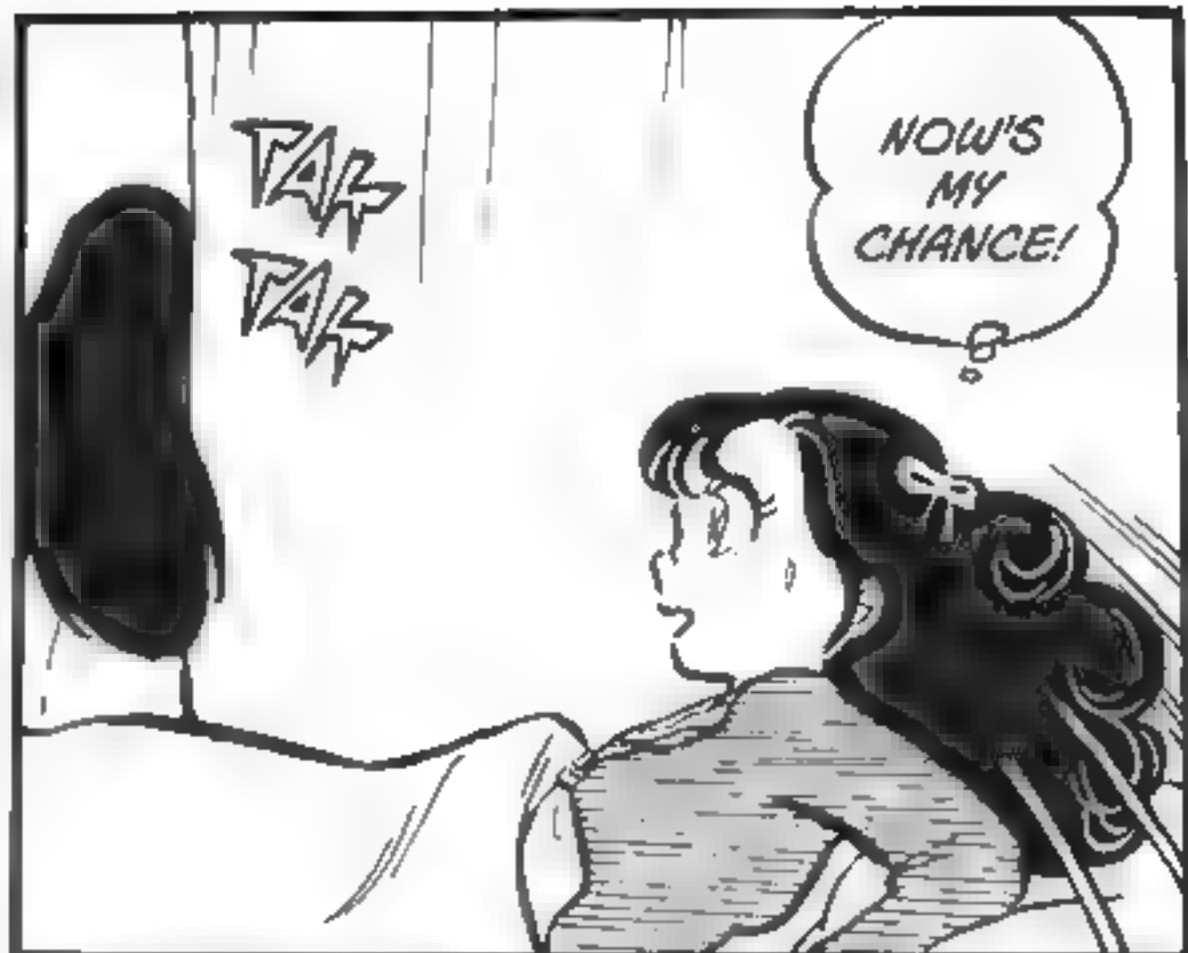


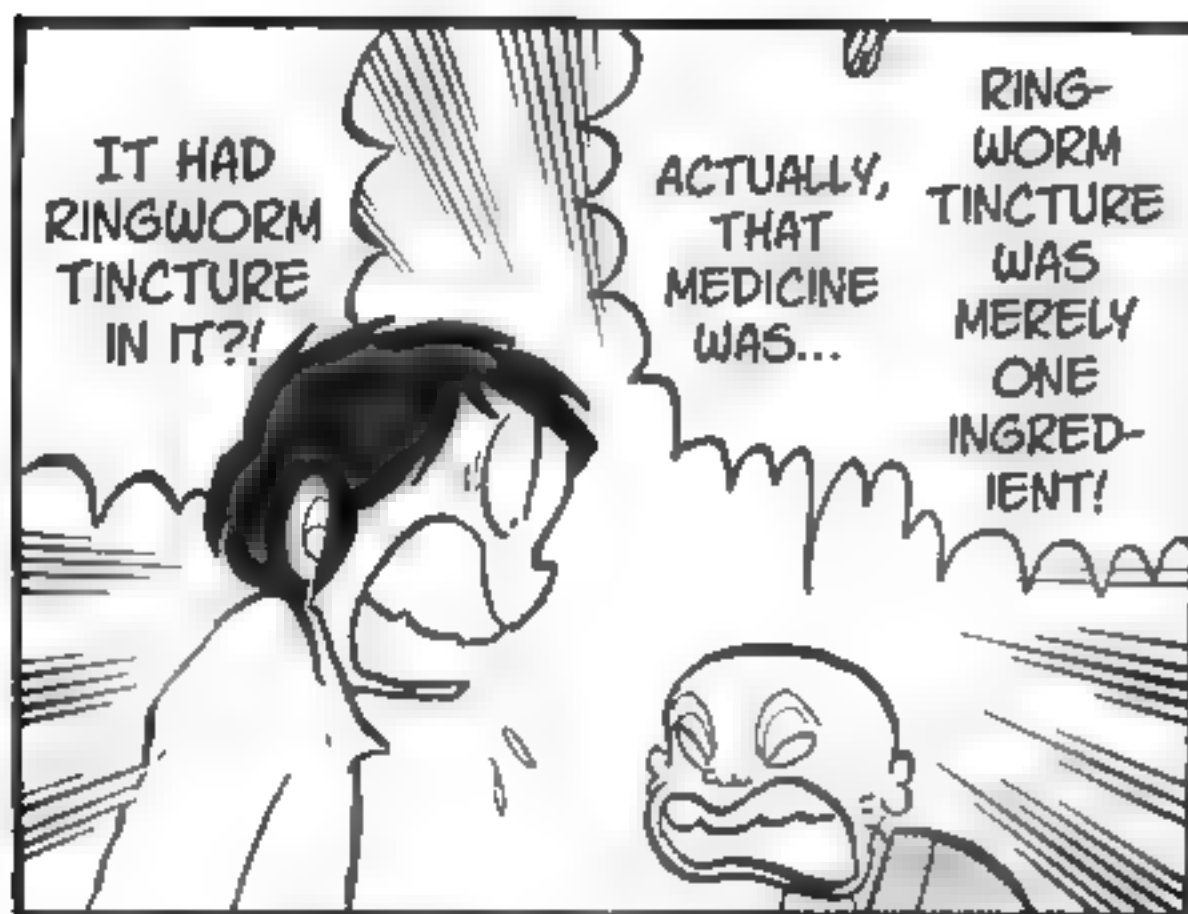






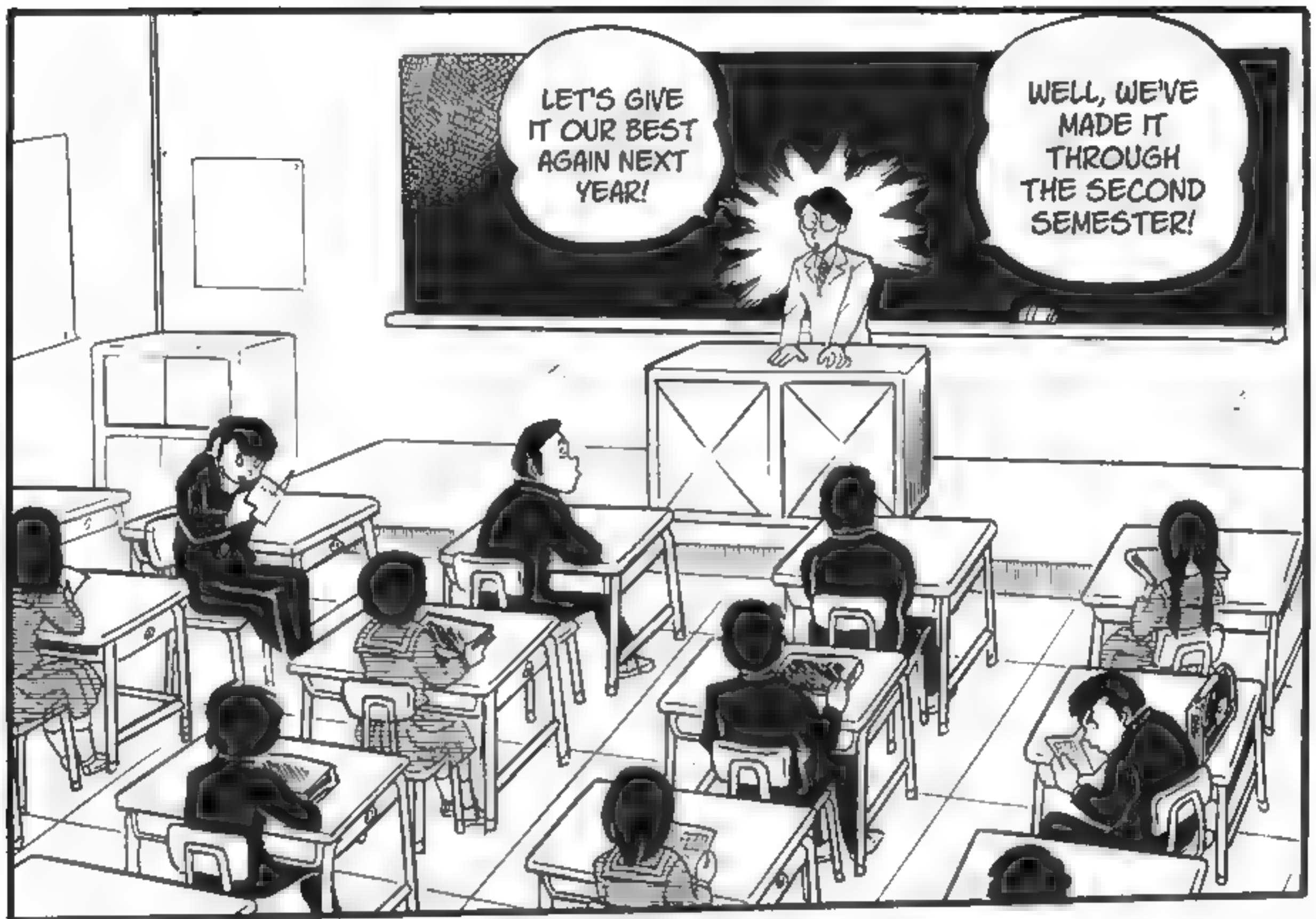


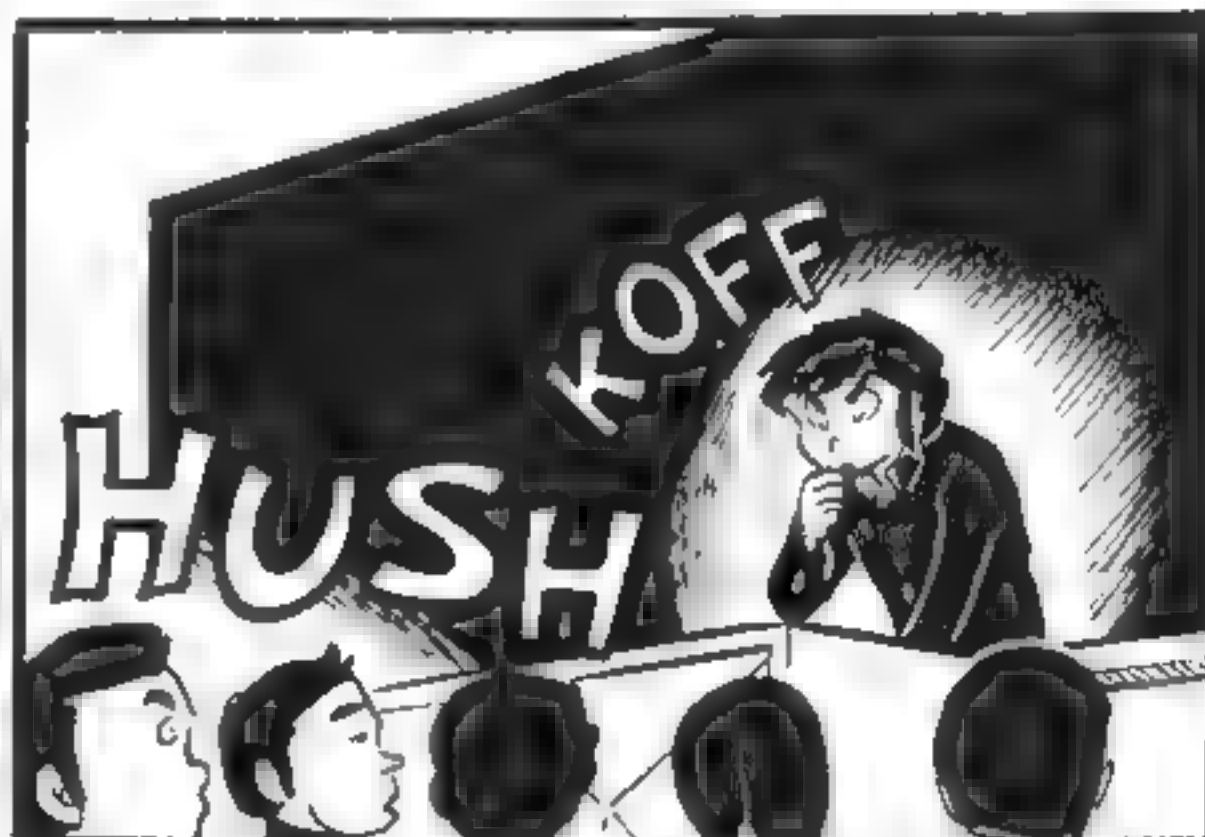




CHAPTER 3: ATARU RETIRES





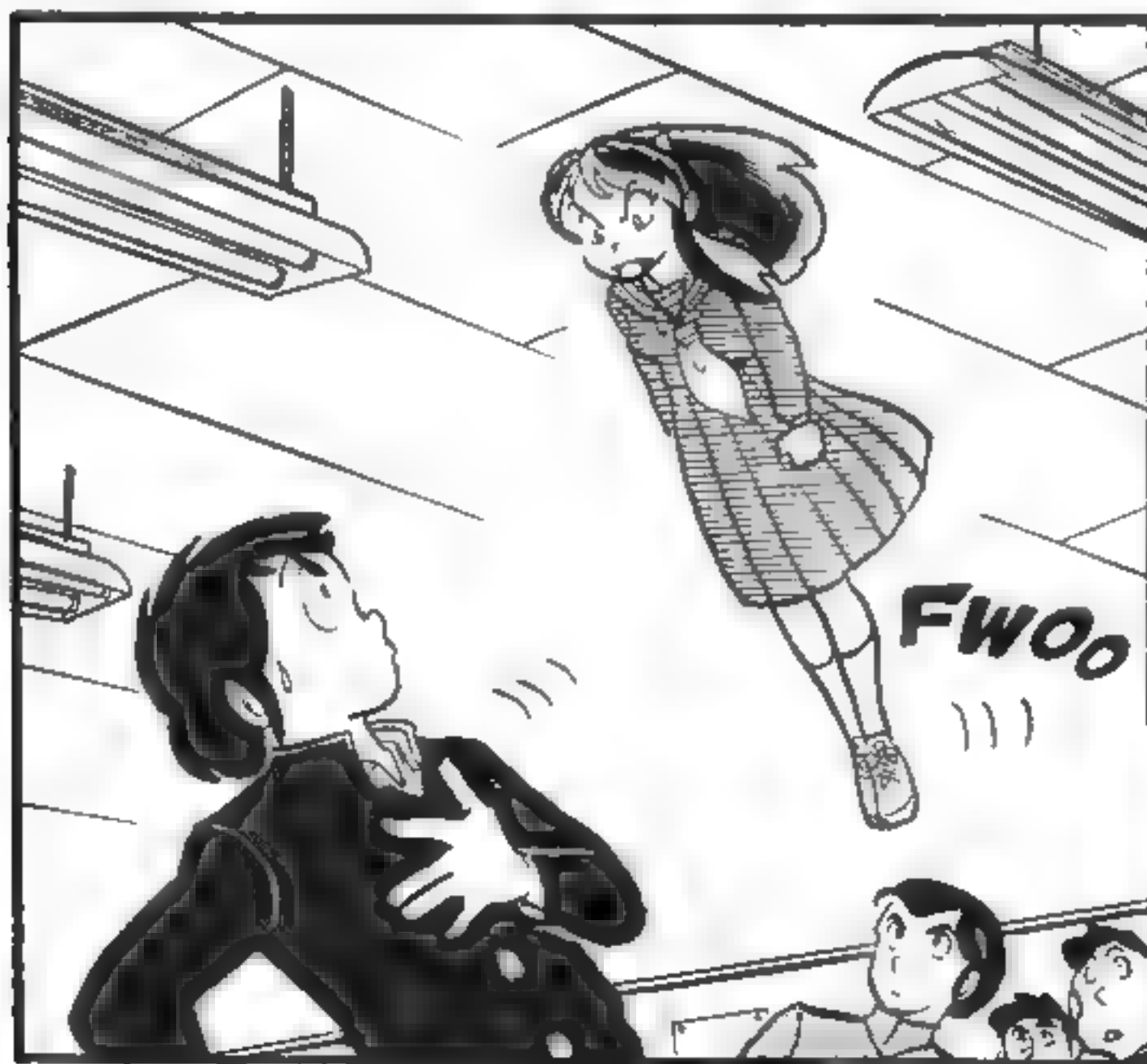


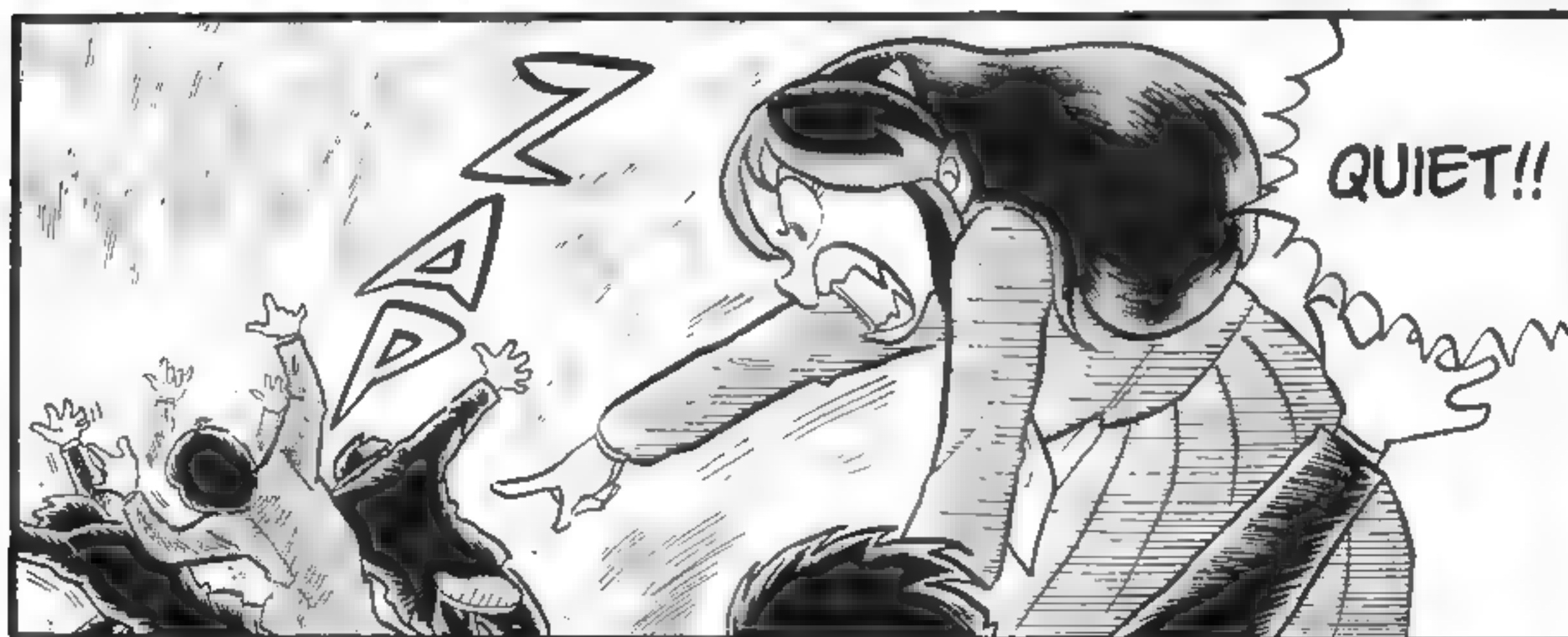




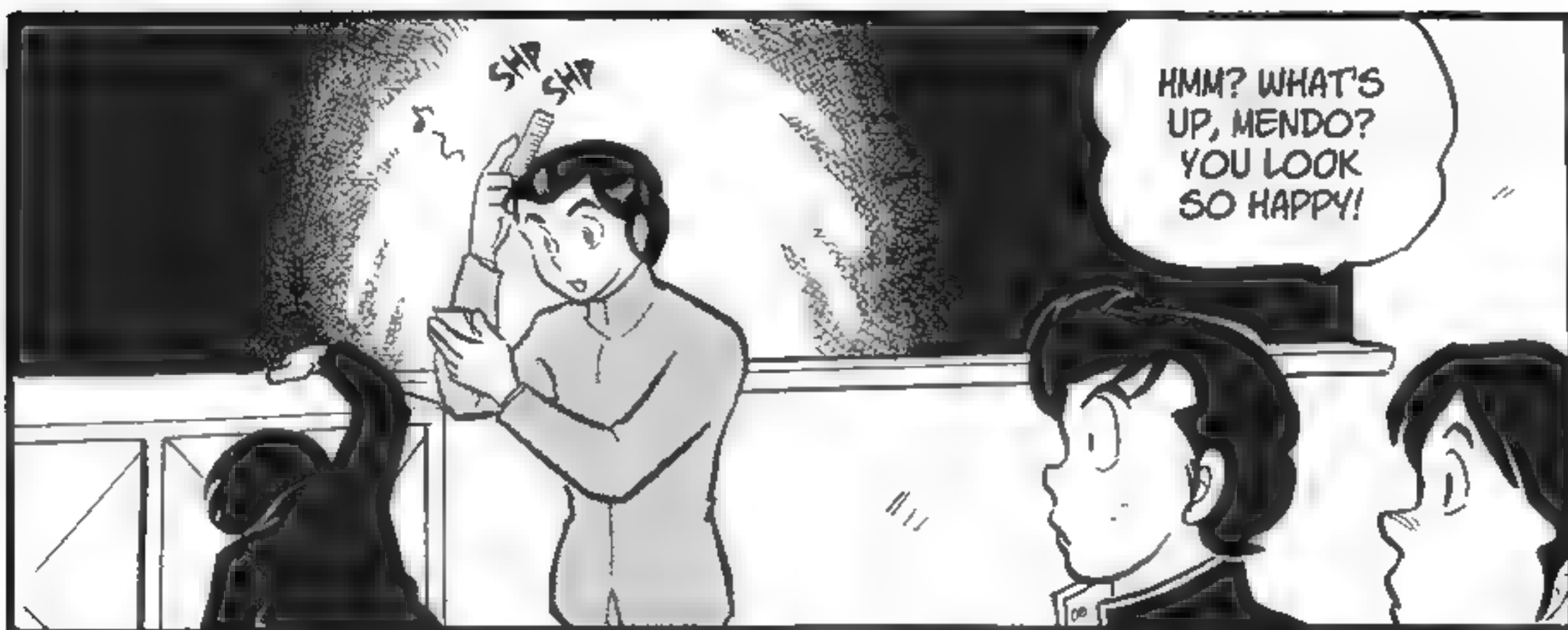


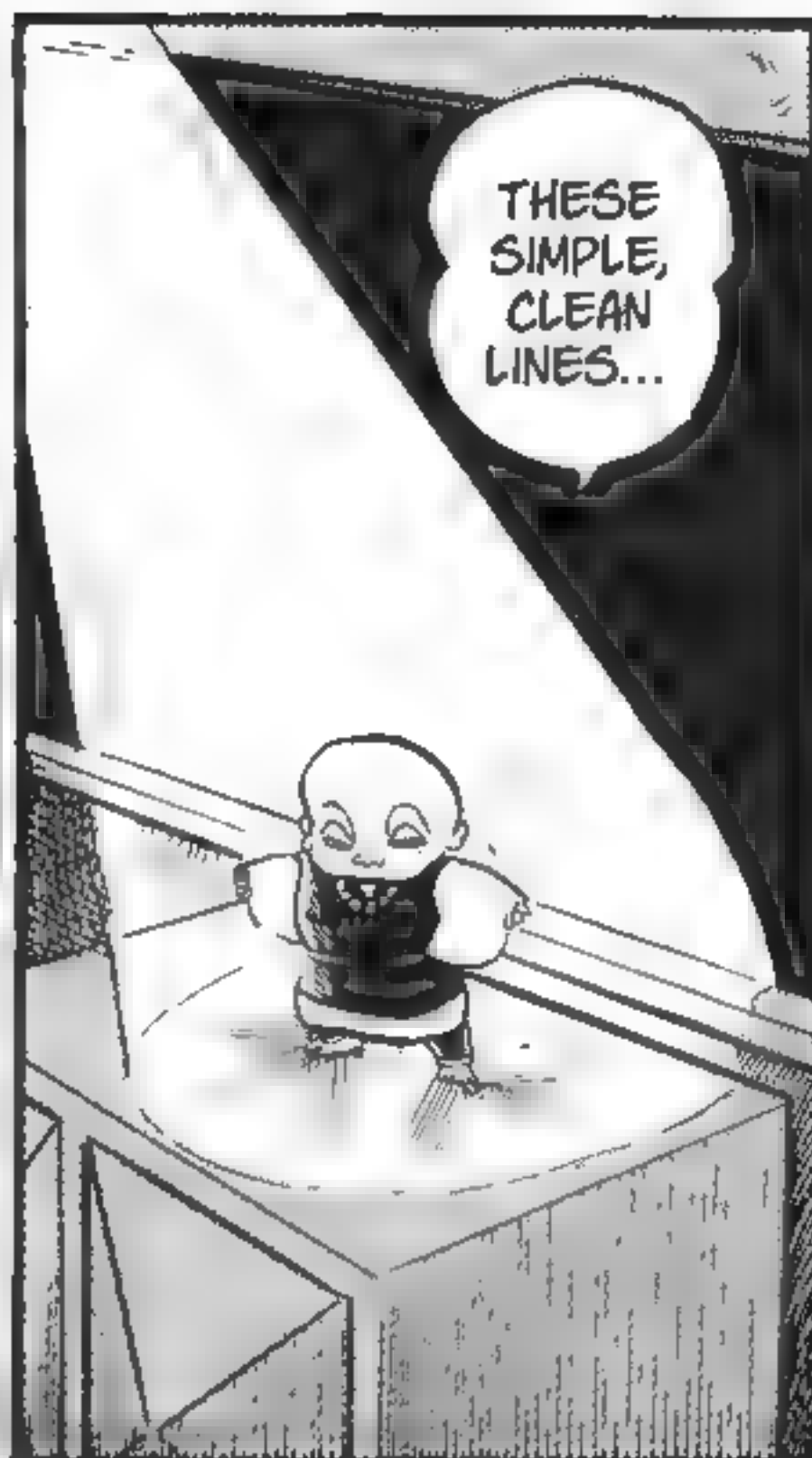
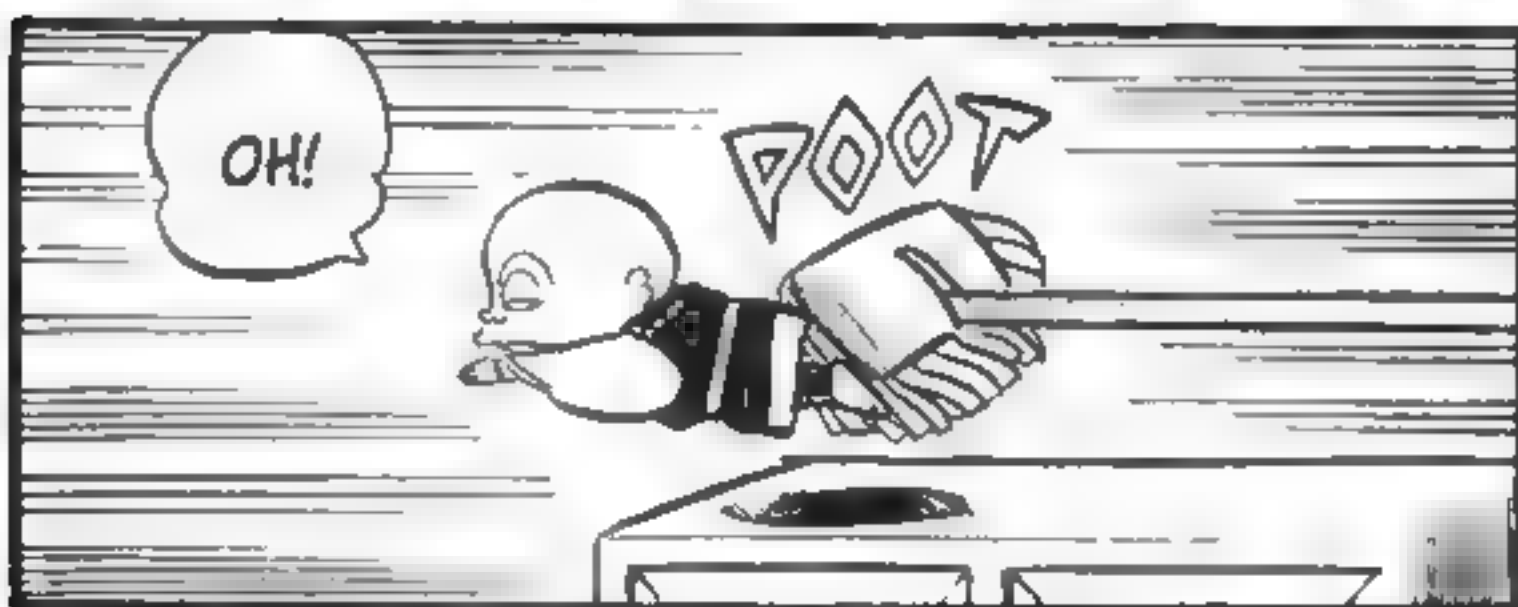
















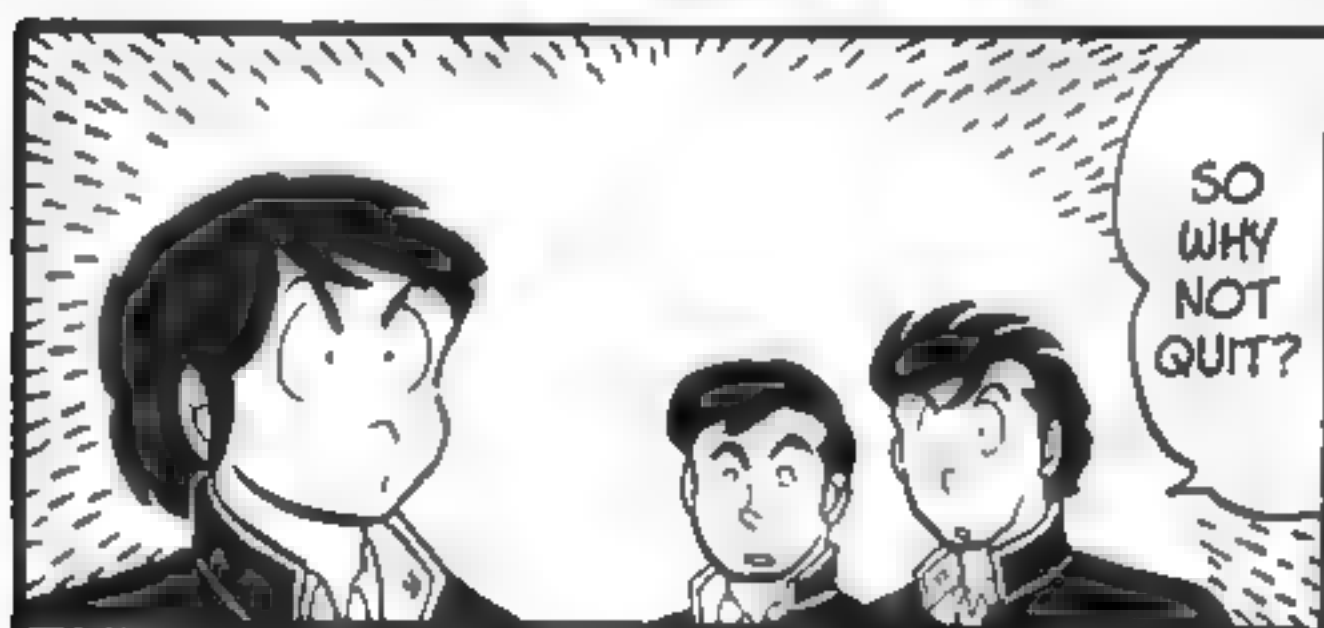




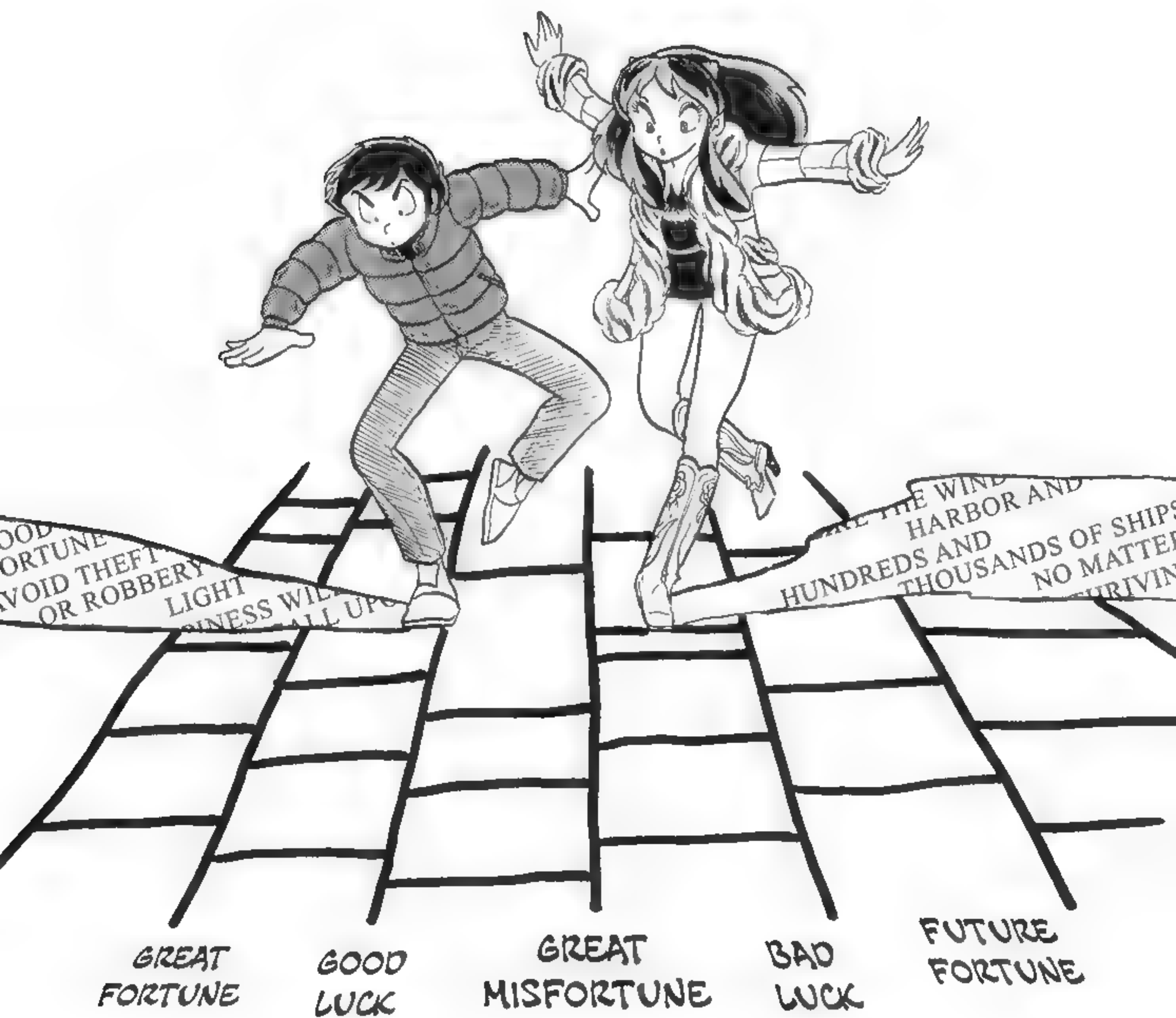
GAH!
THAT'S SO
COLD, YOU
GUYS!



WELL,
YEAH...



CHAPTER 4: FORTUNE FEAR

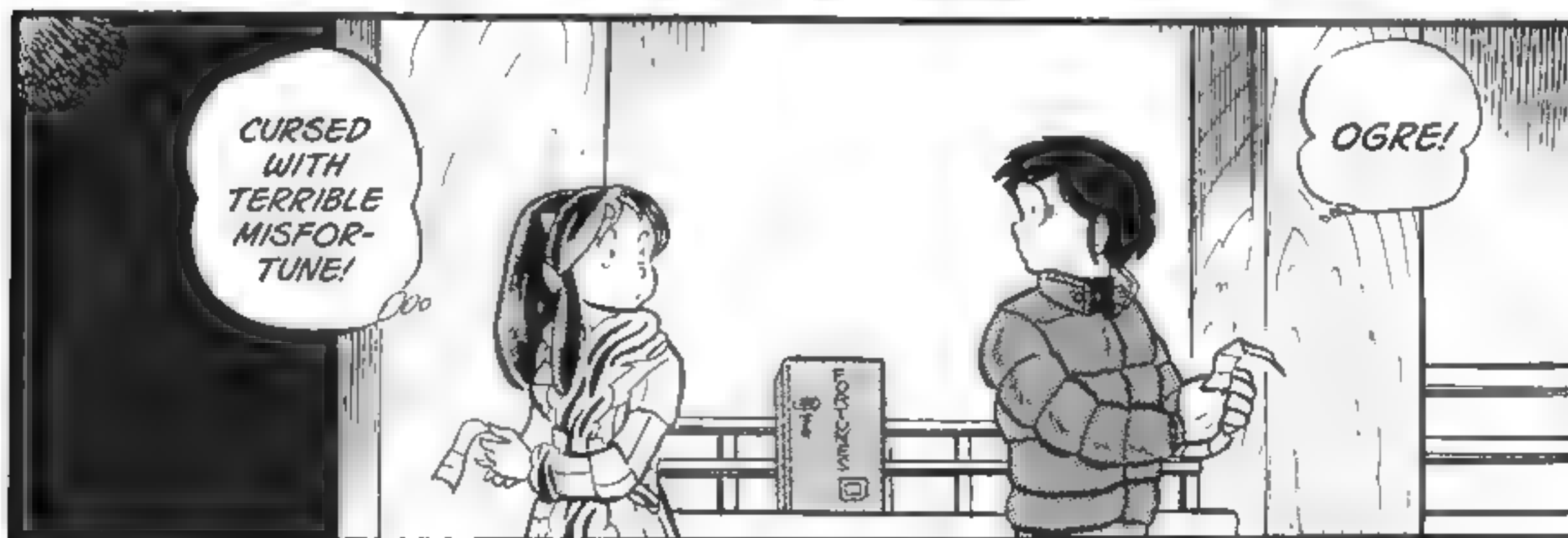


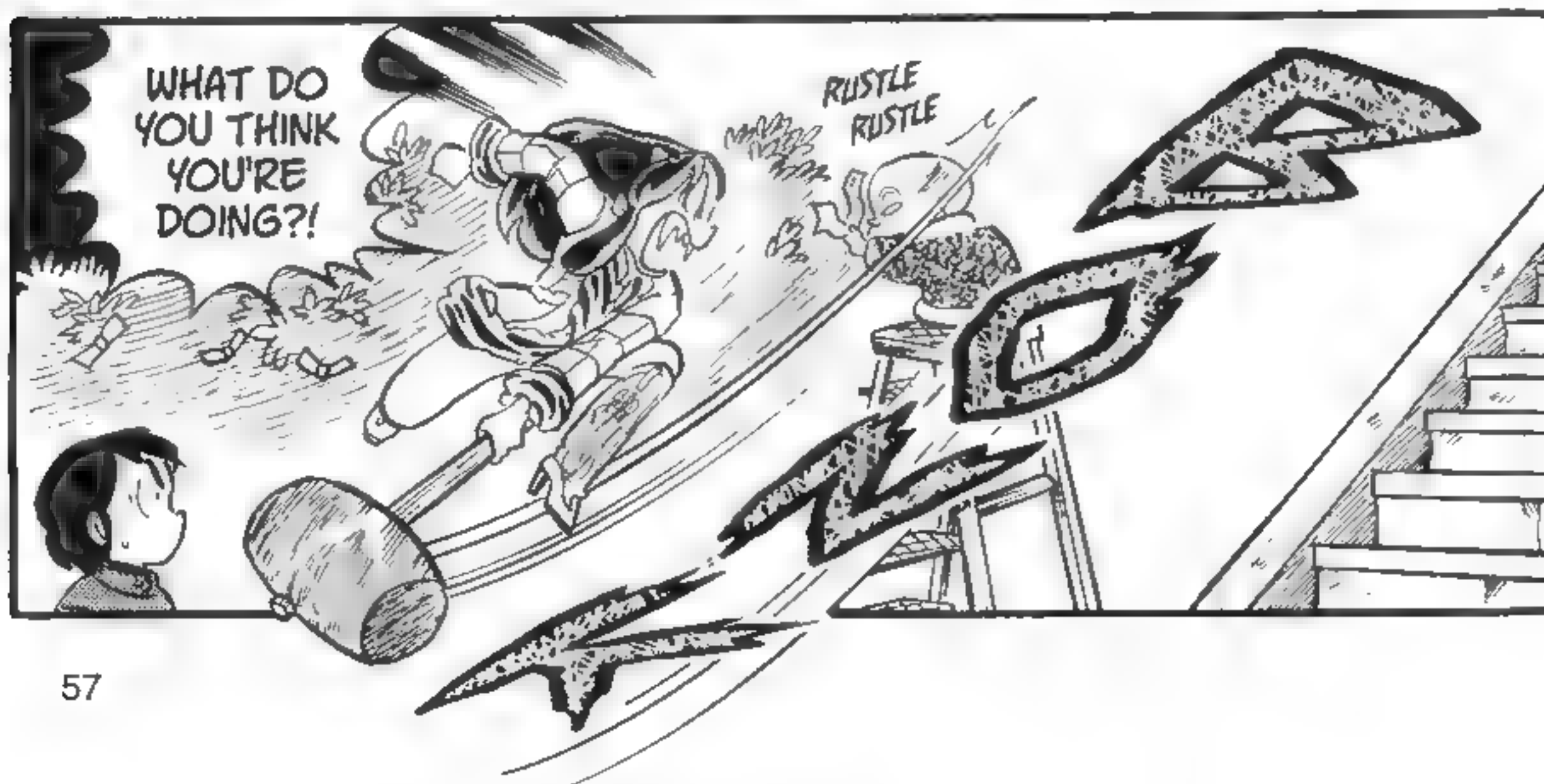
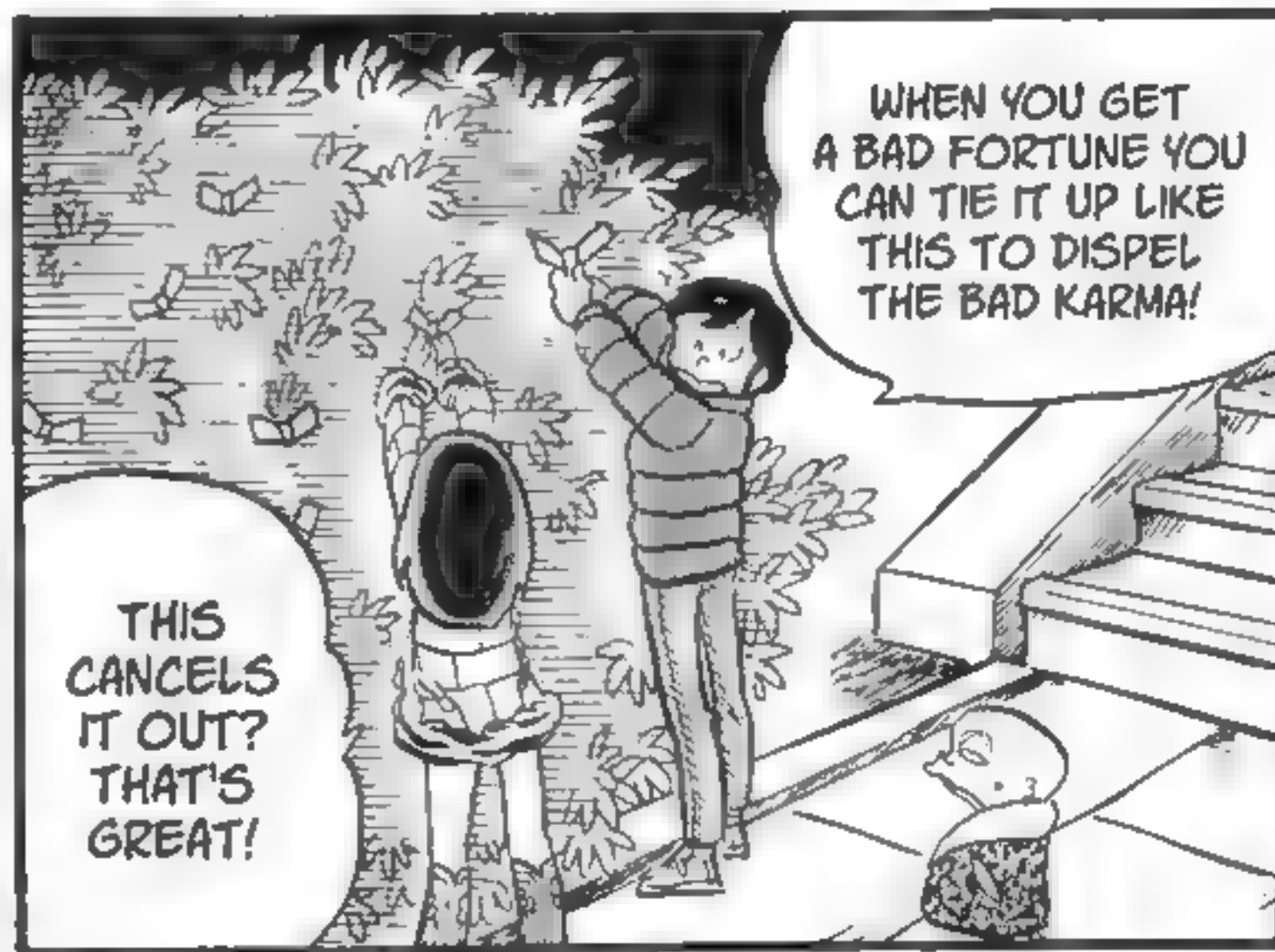


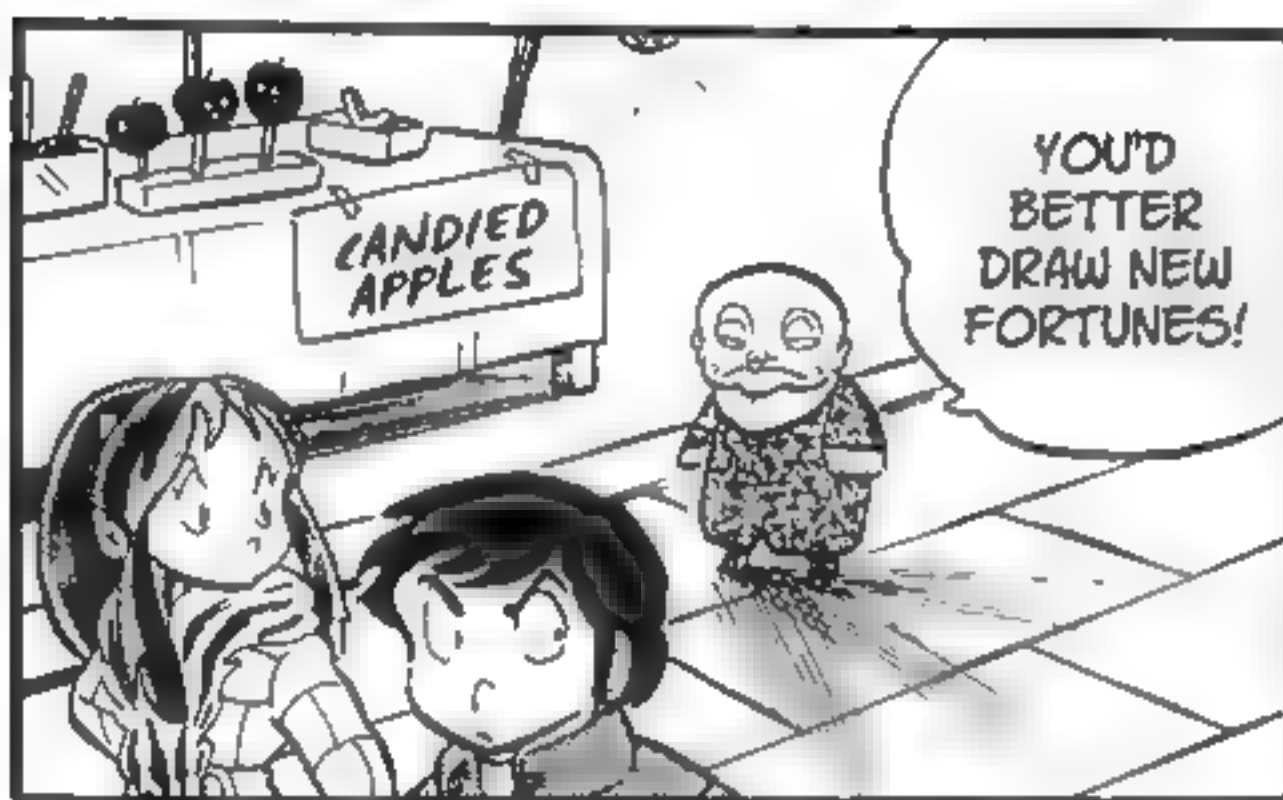


*ABOUT \$0 10

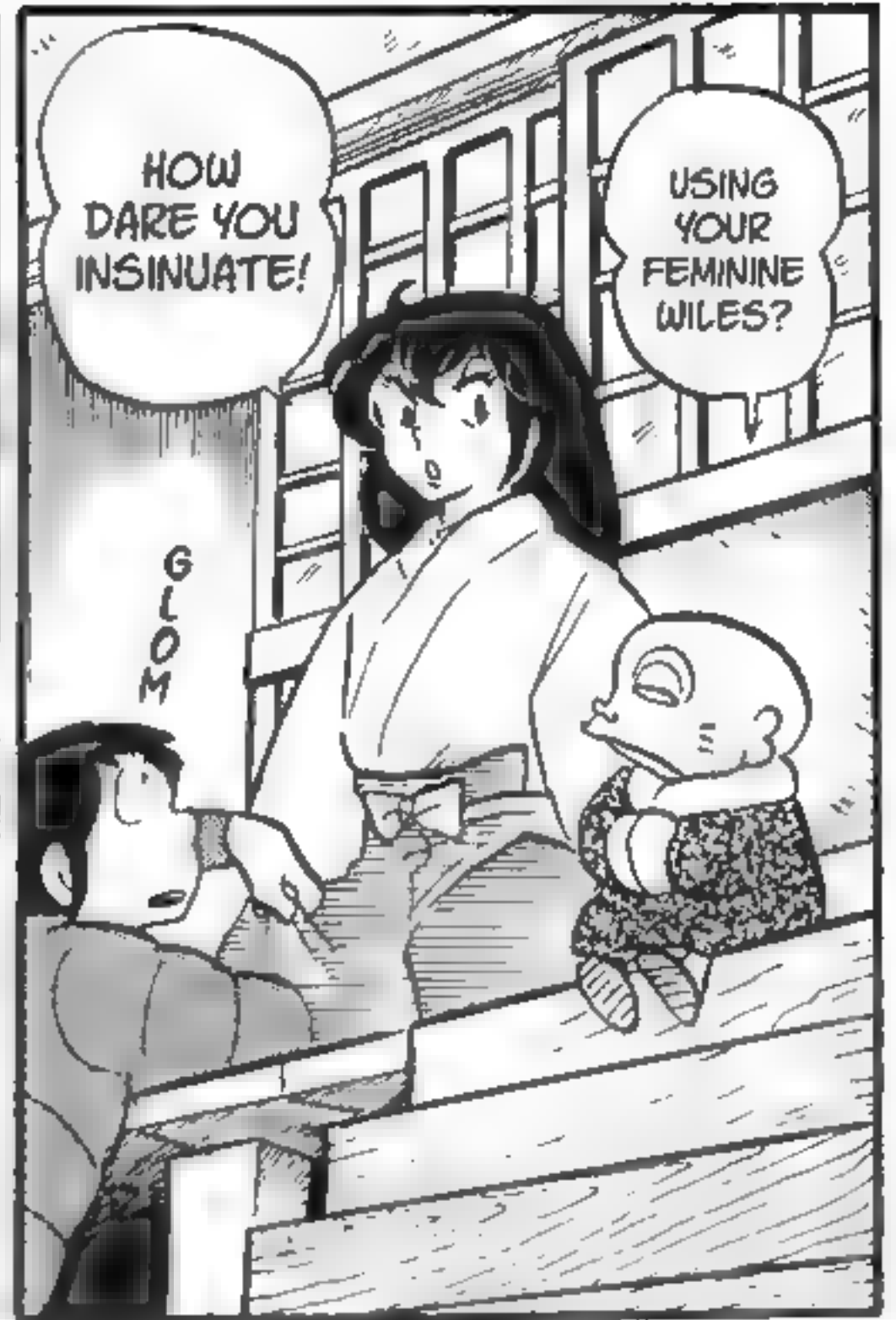




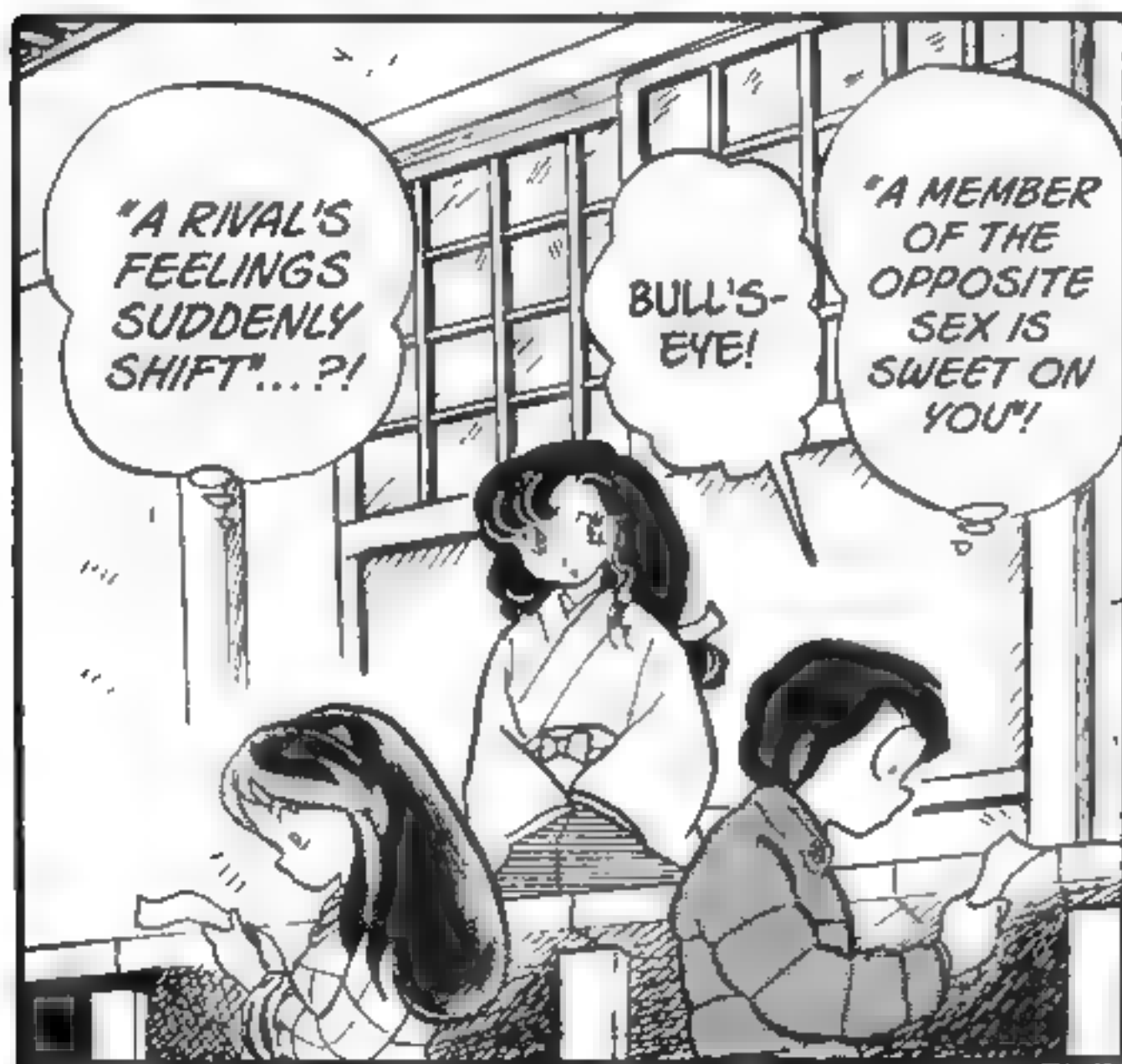












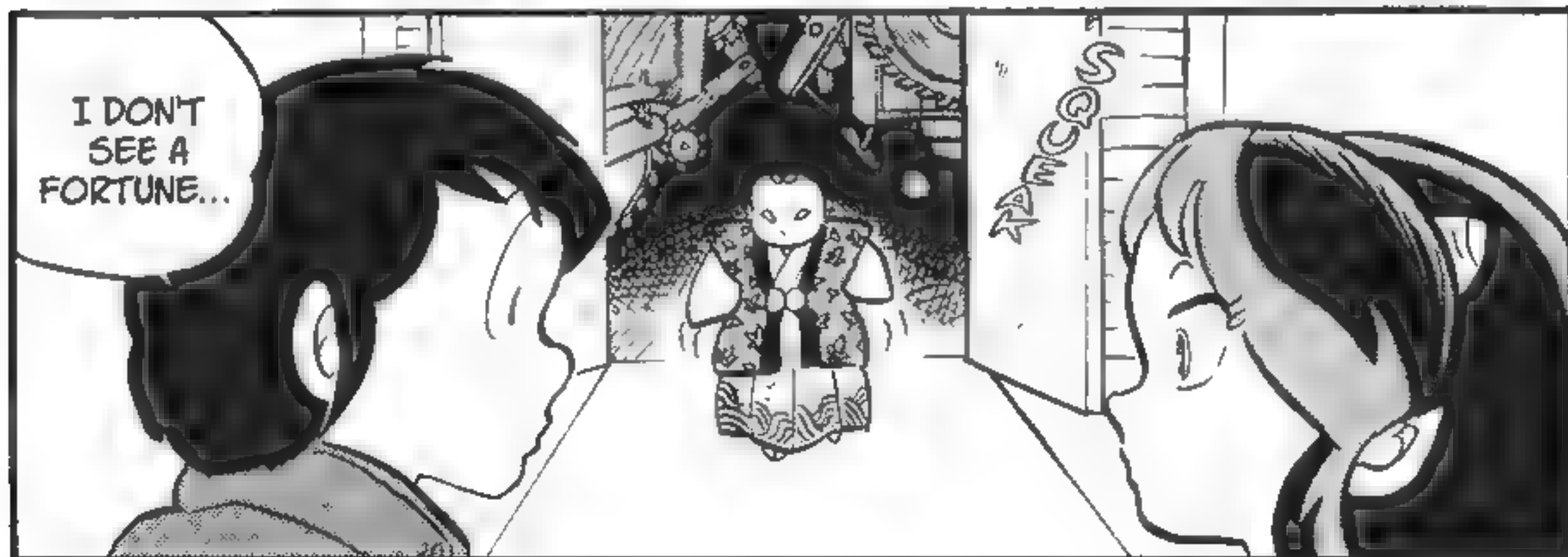


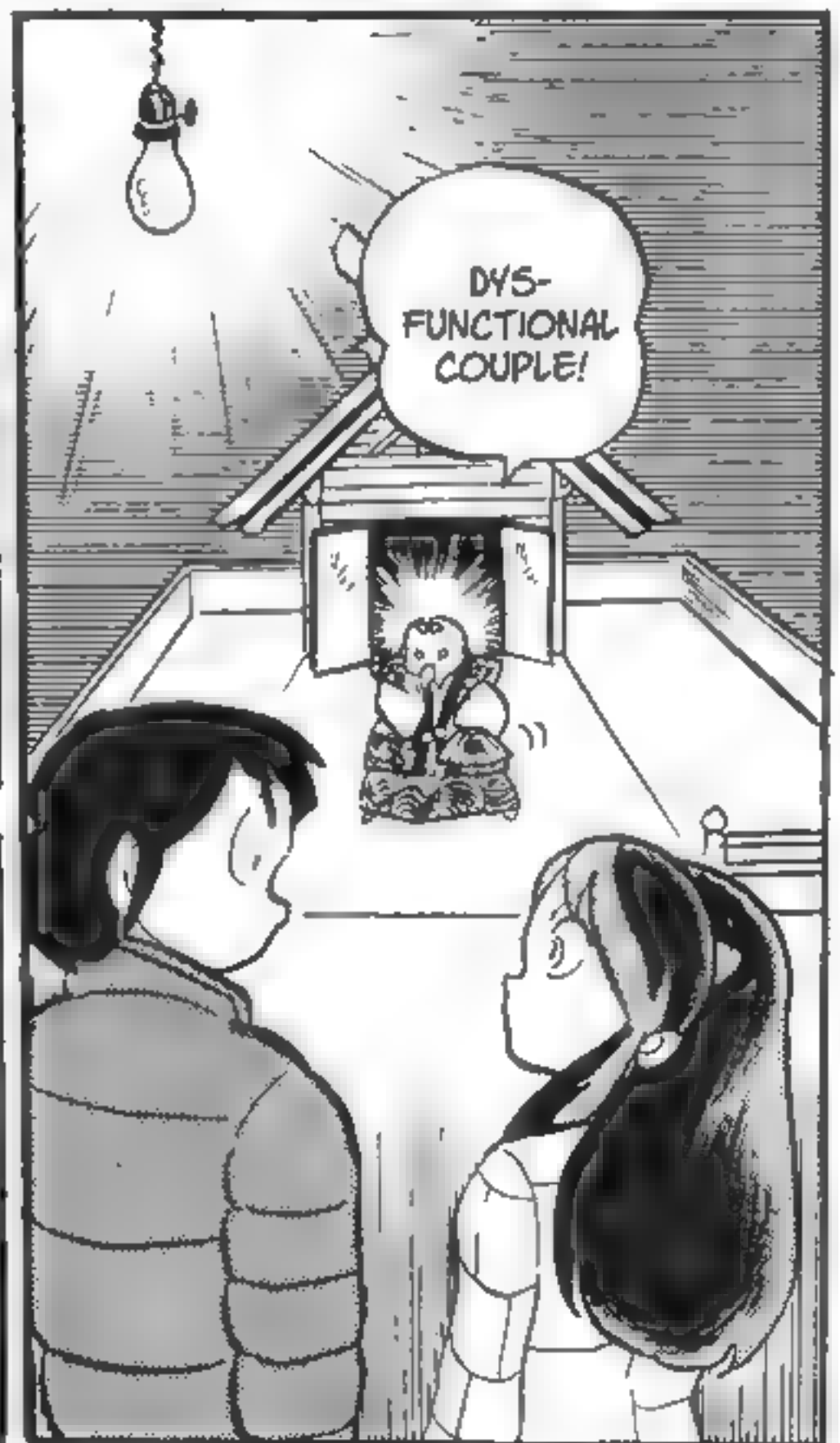
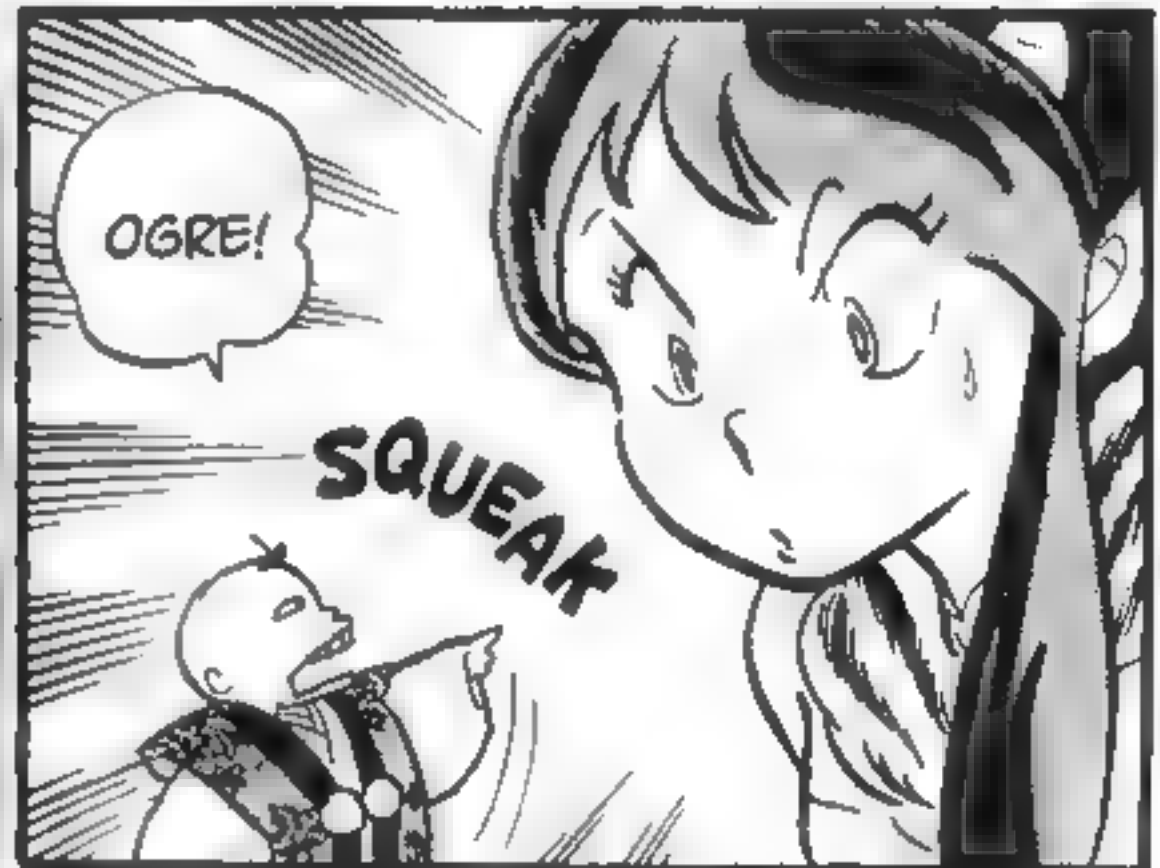
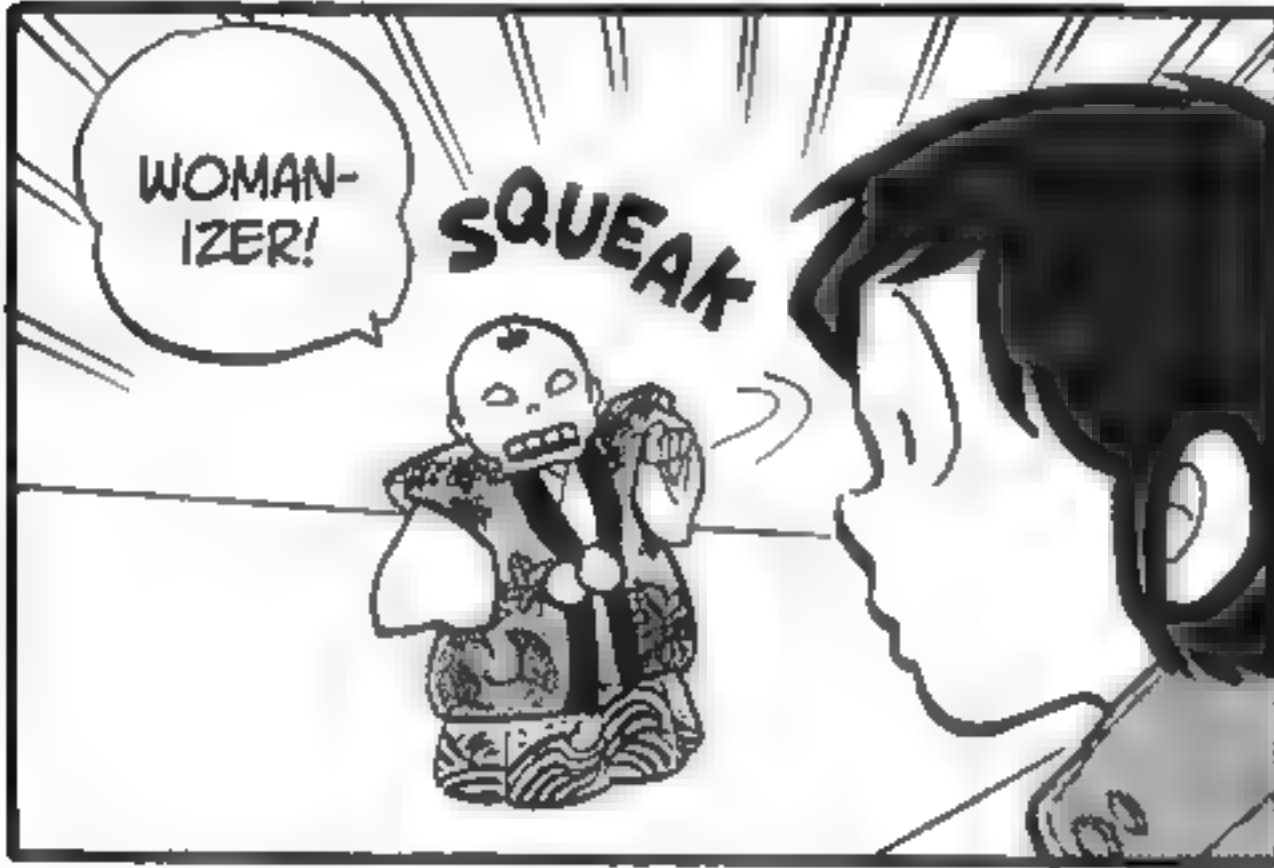


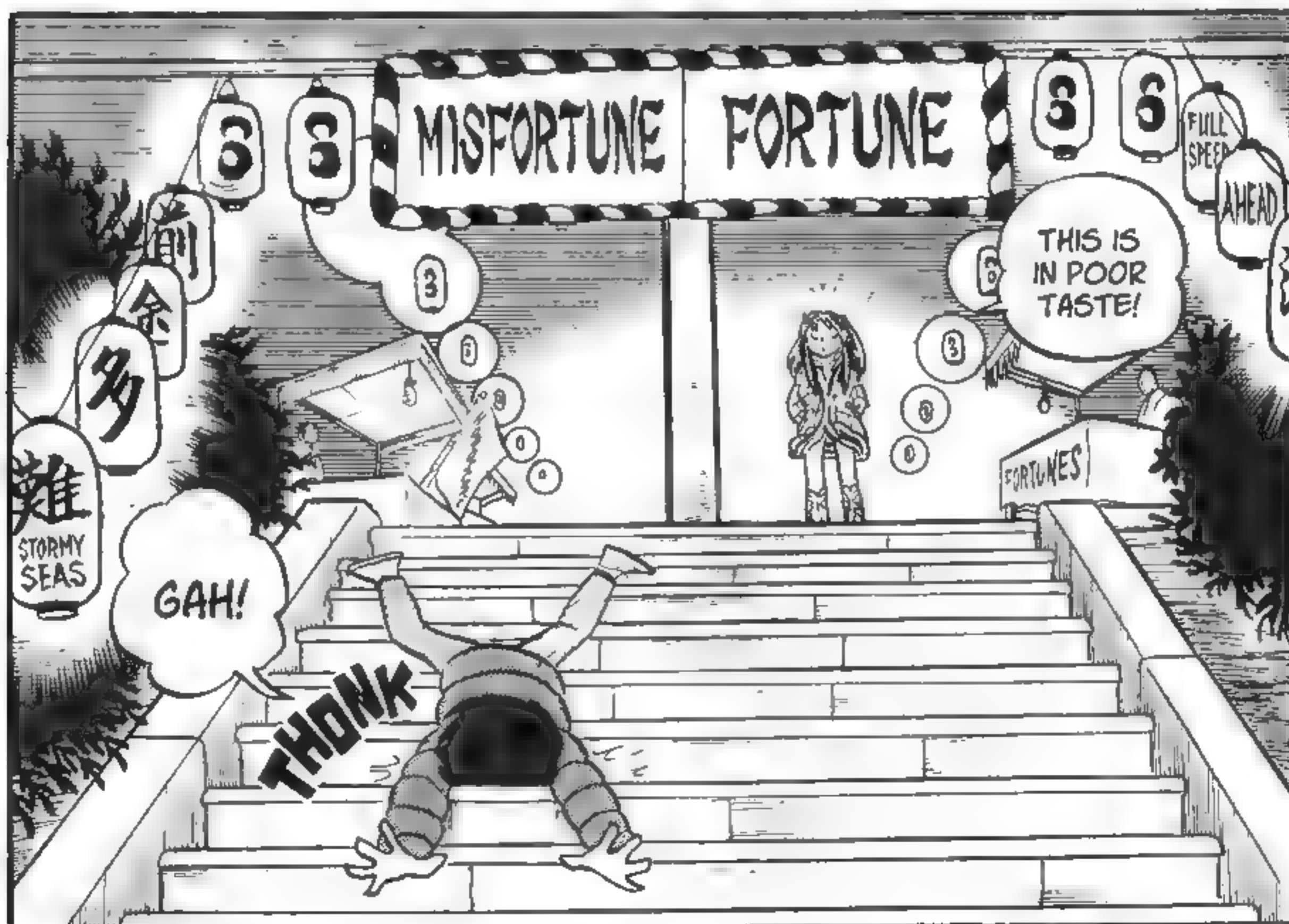
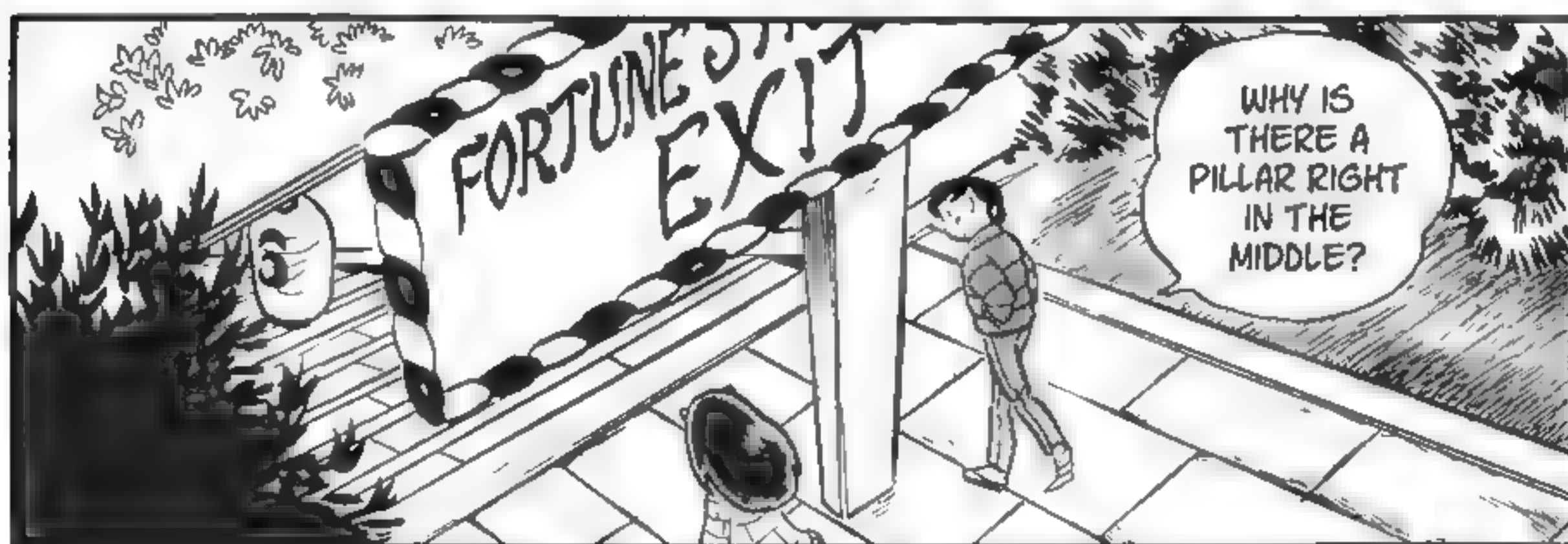




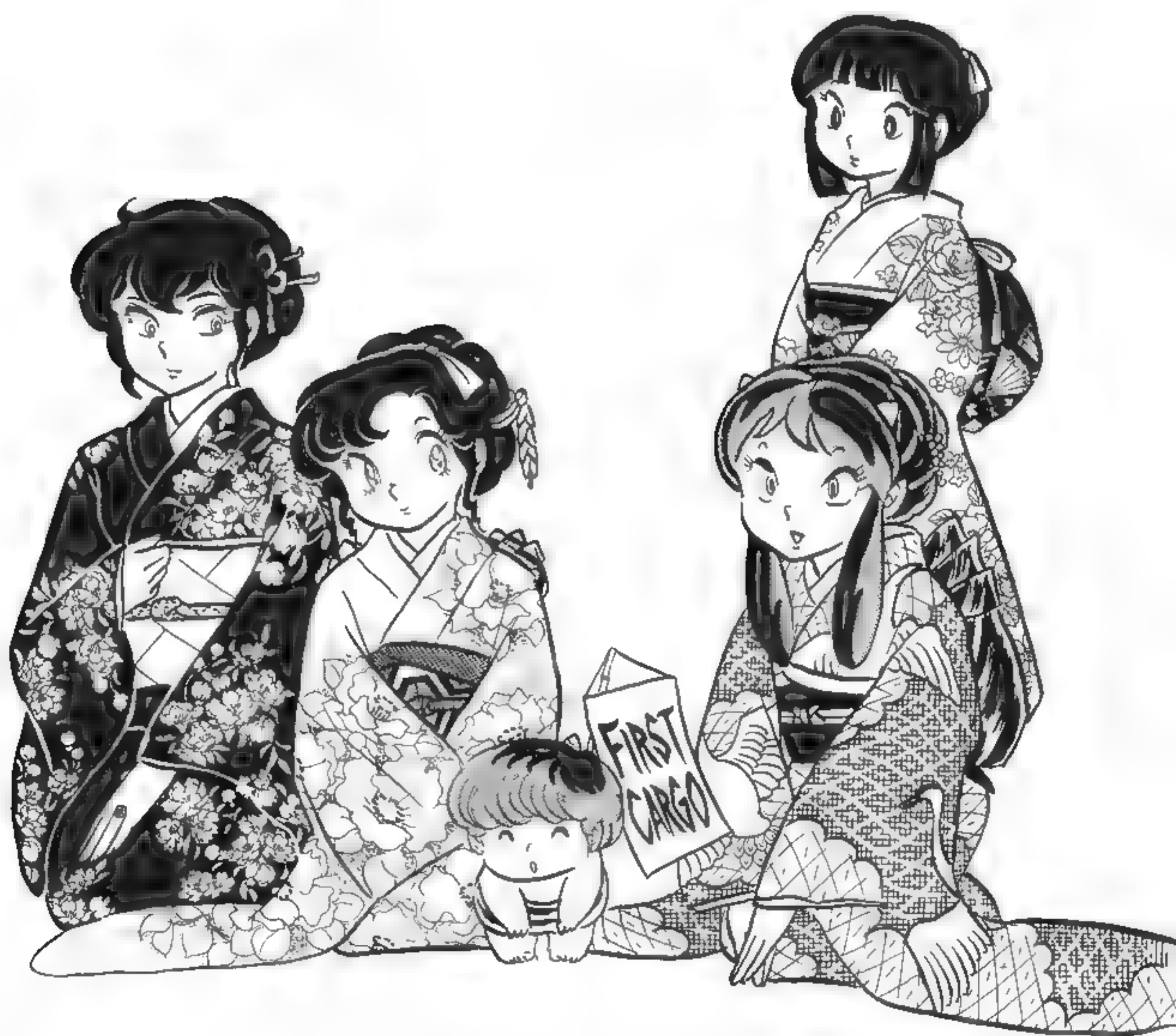
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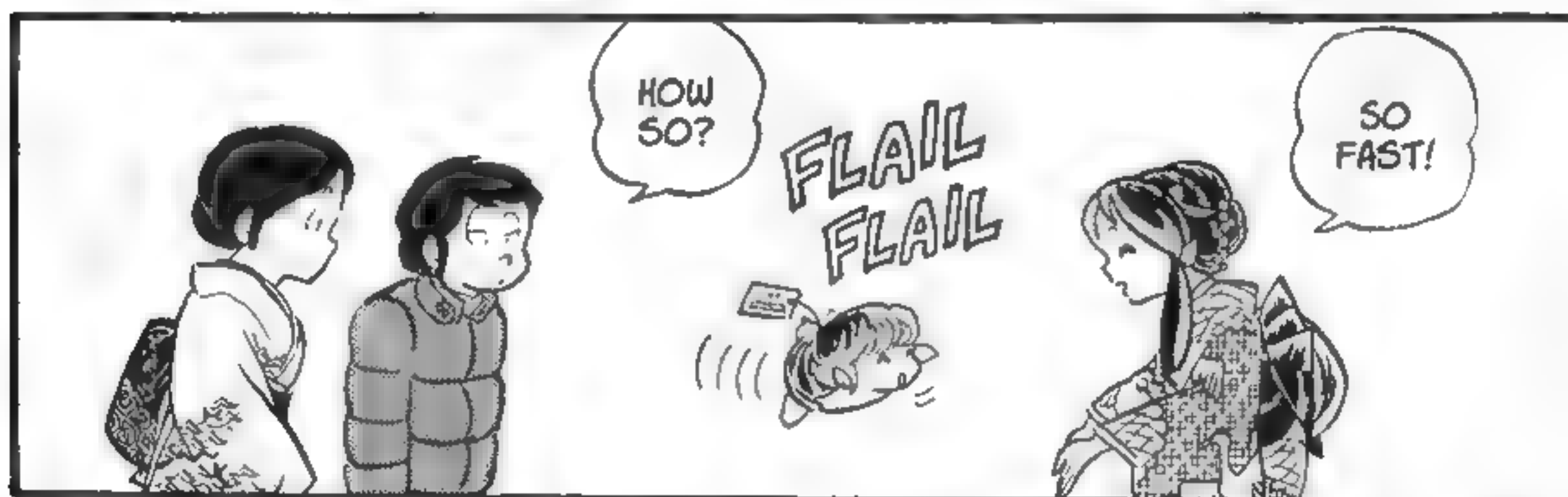
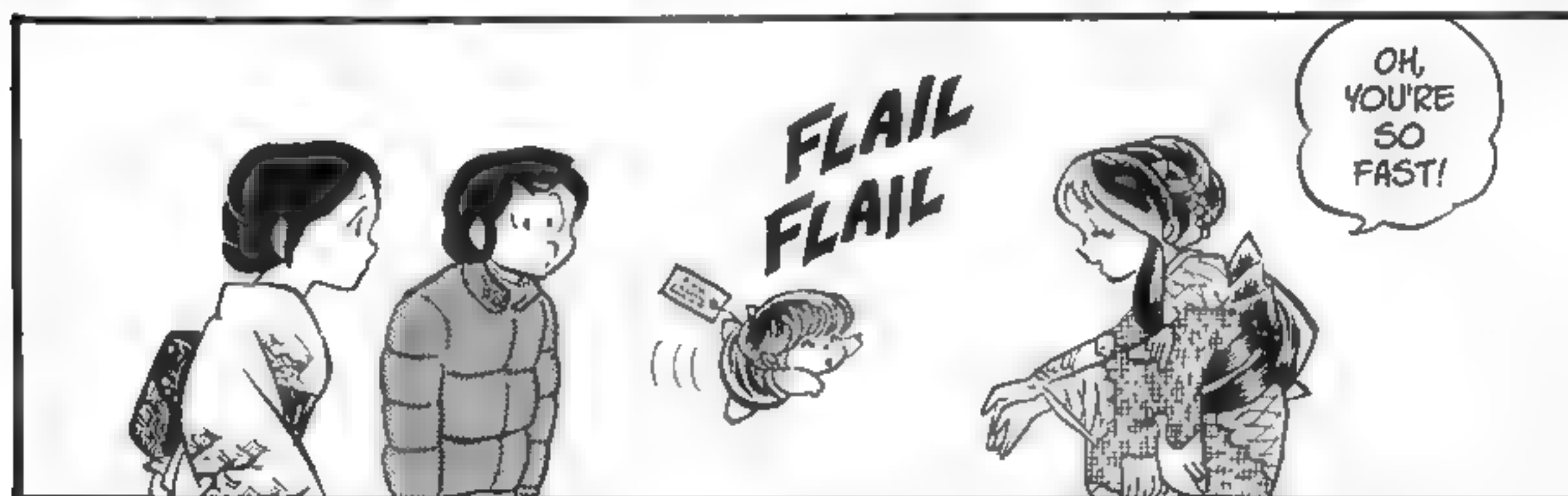
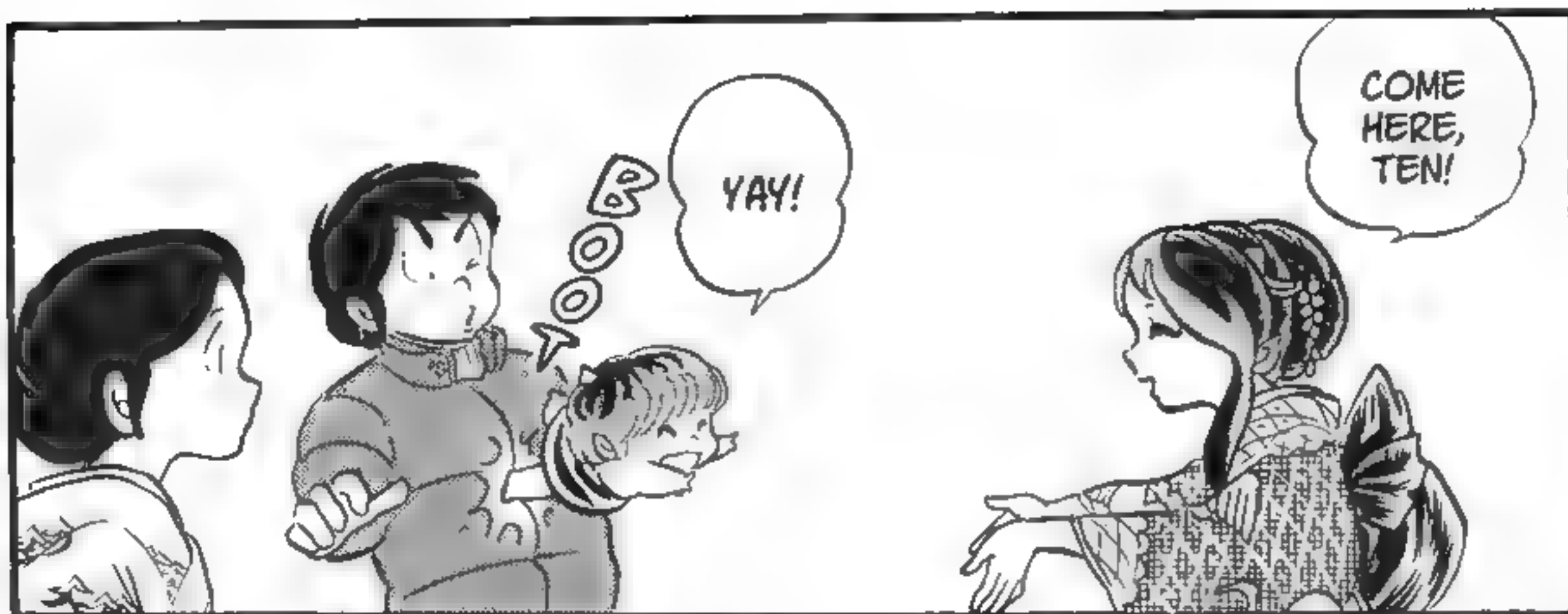
CHAPTER 5: TEN IS HERE

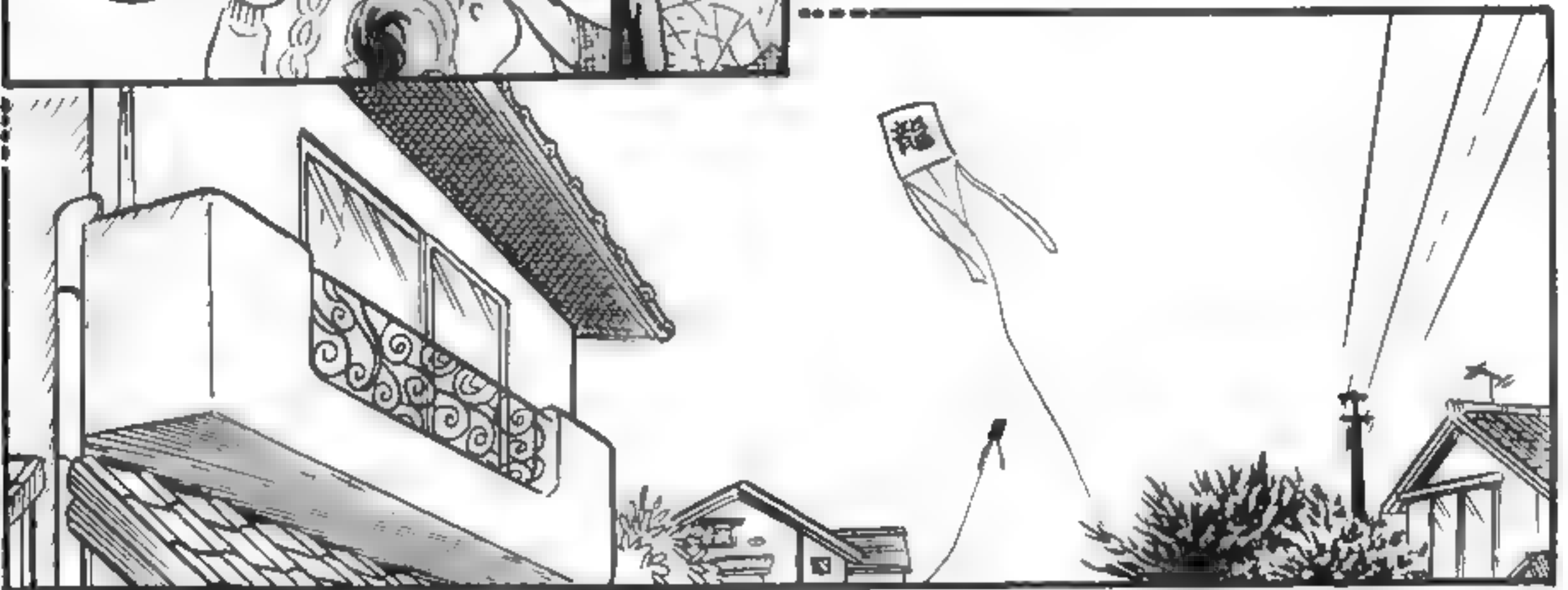


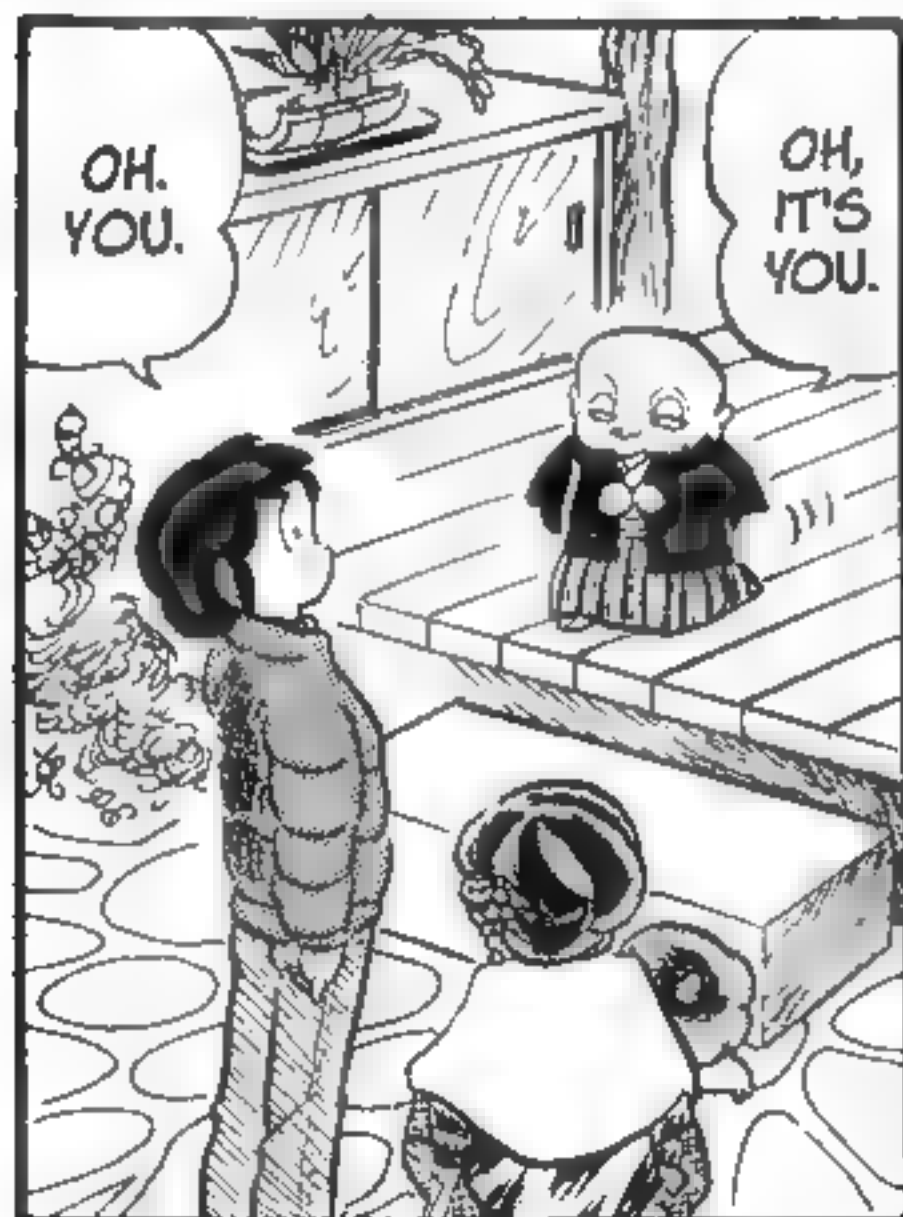
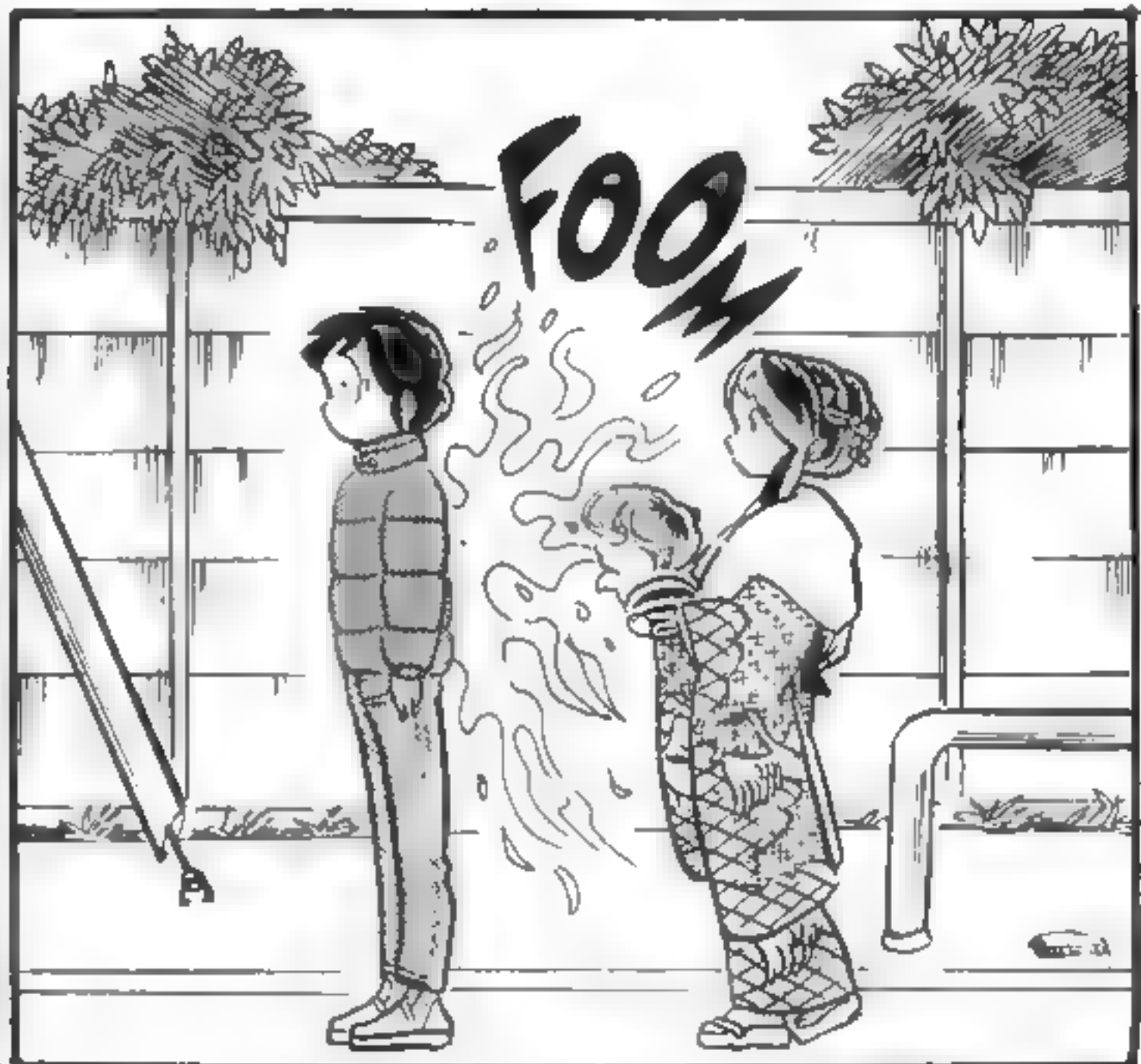
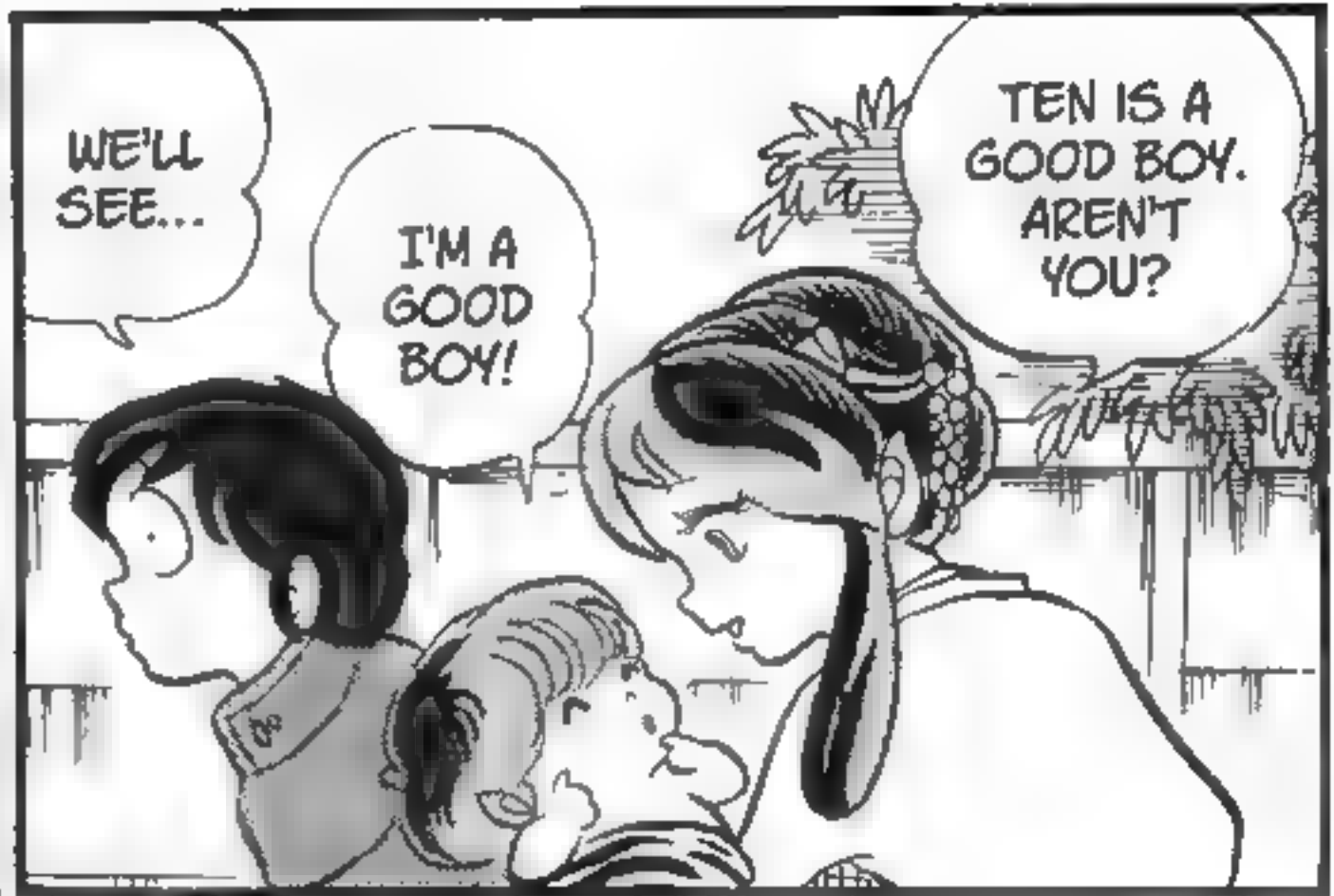














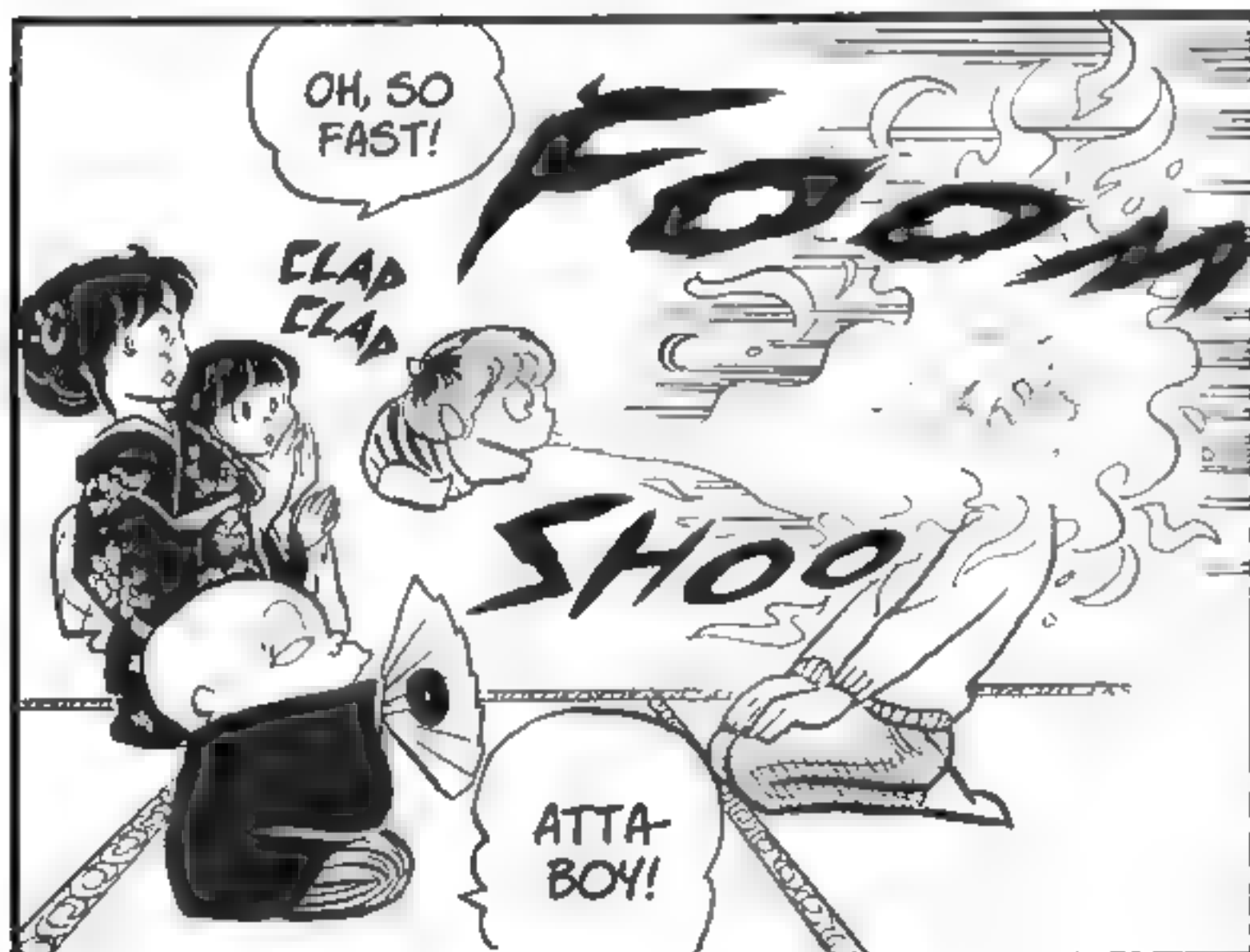
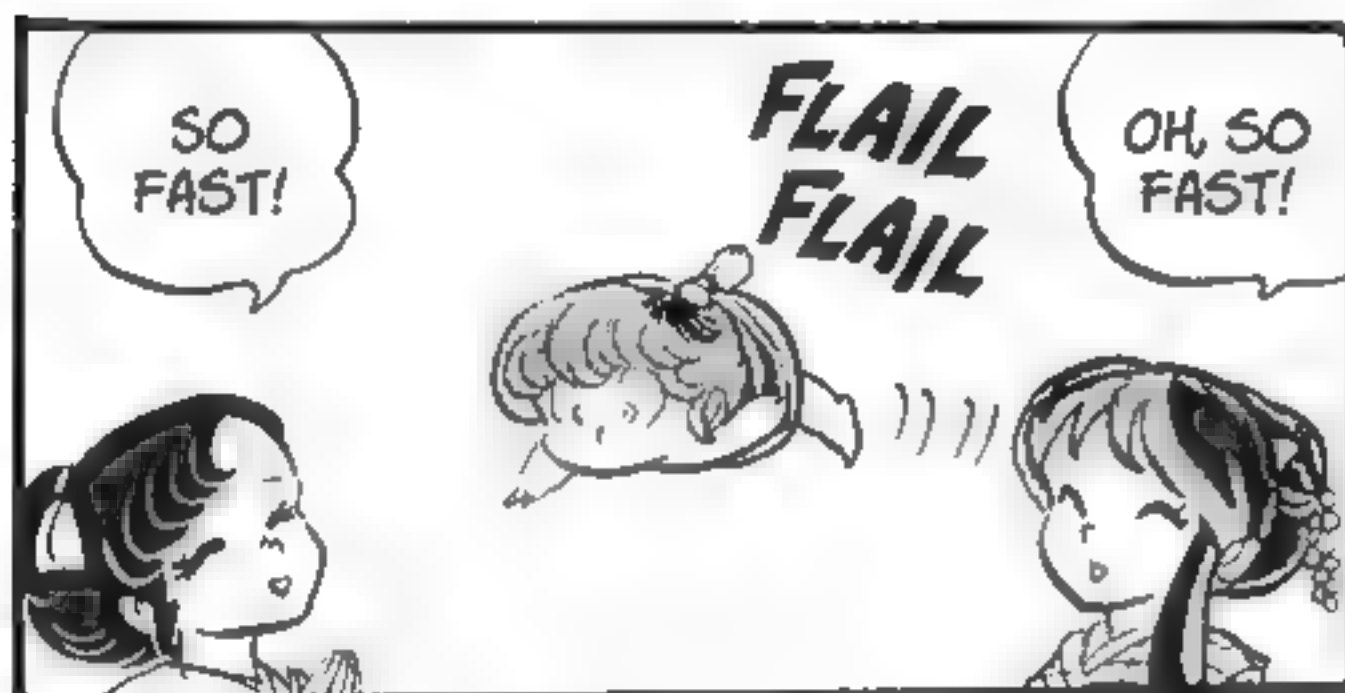




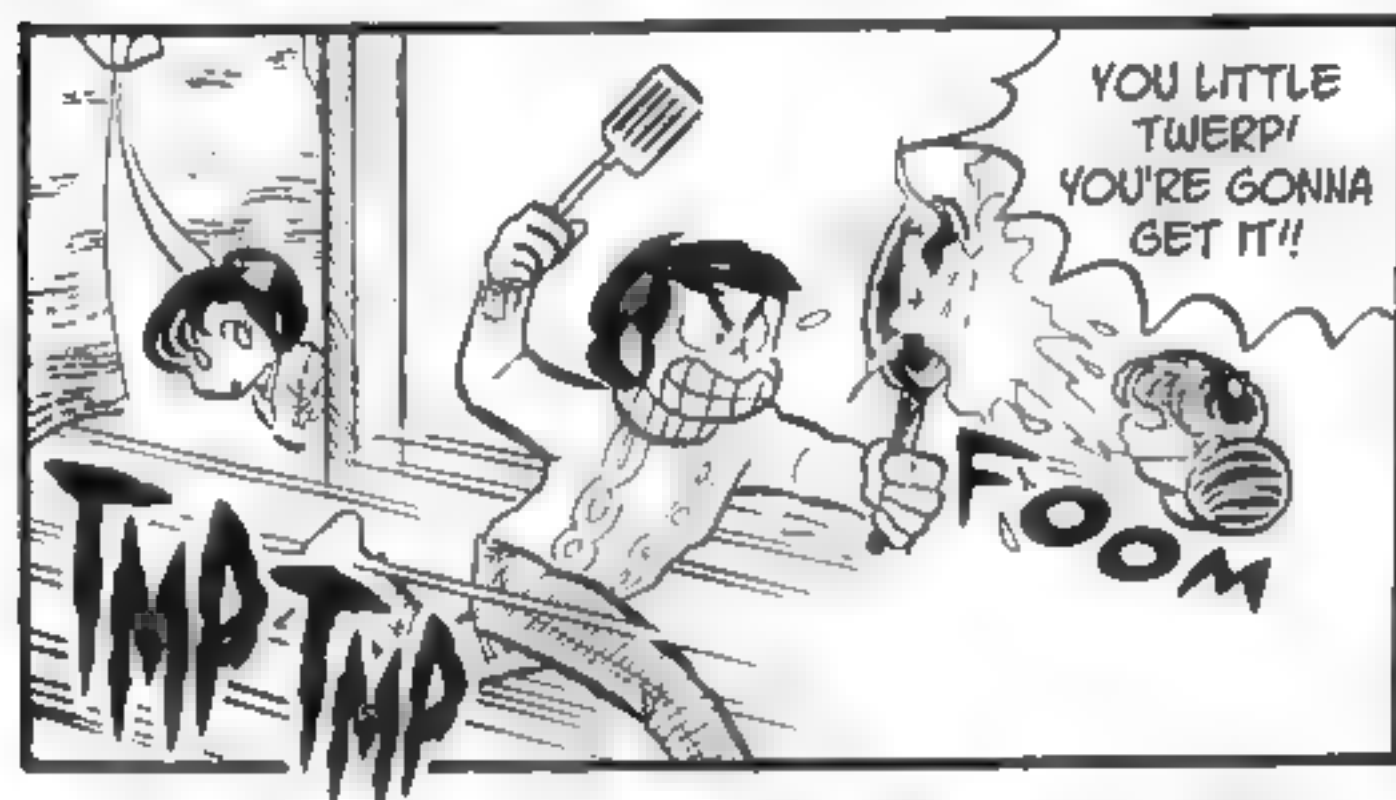


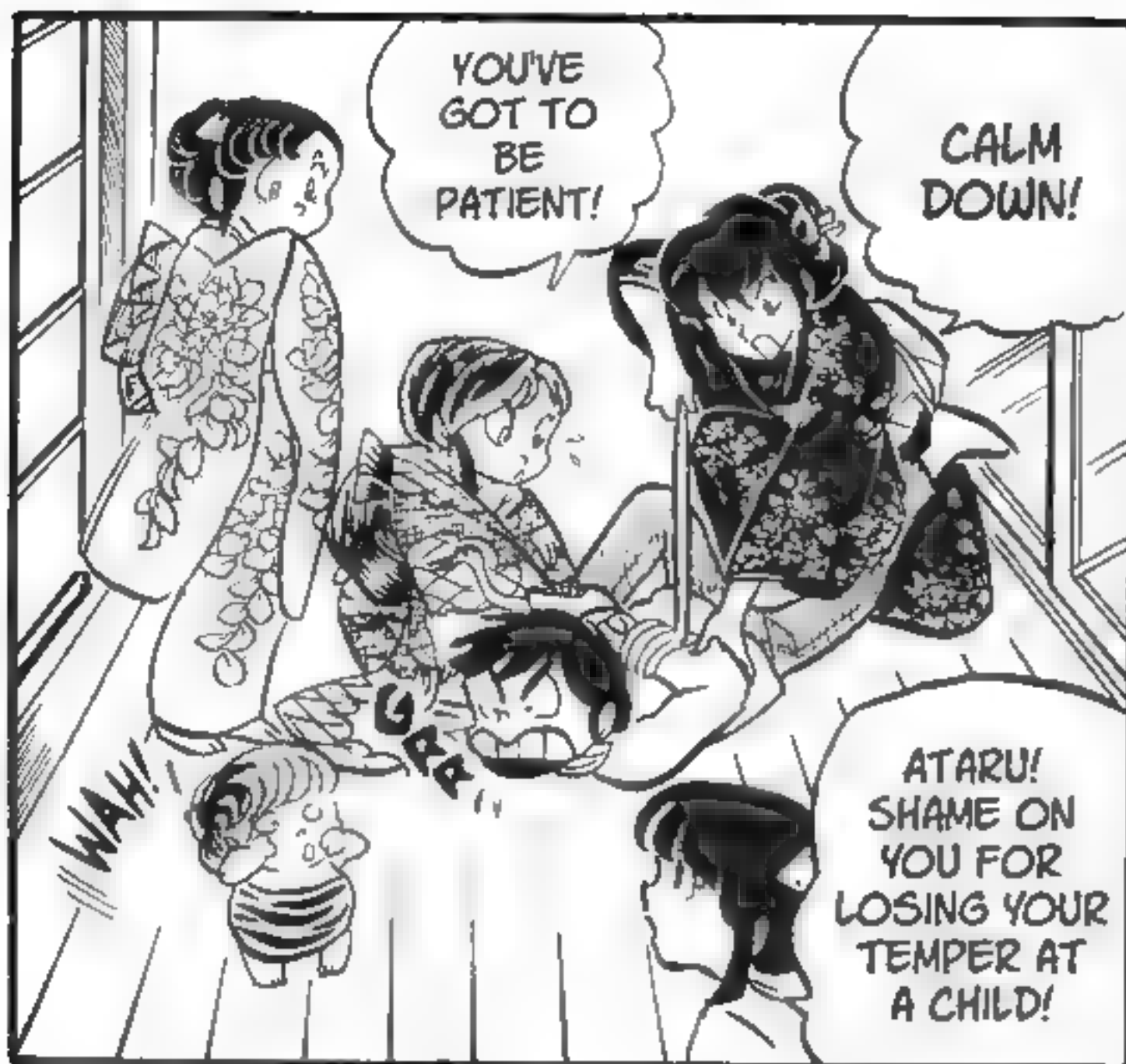


*A BOARD GAME SIMILAR TO SNAKES AND LADDERS









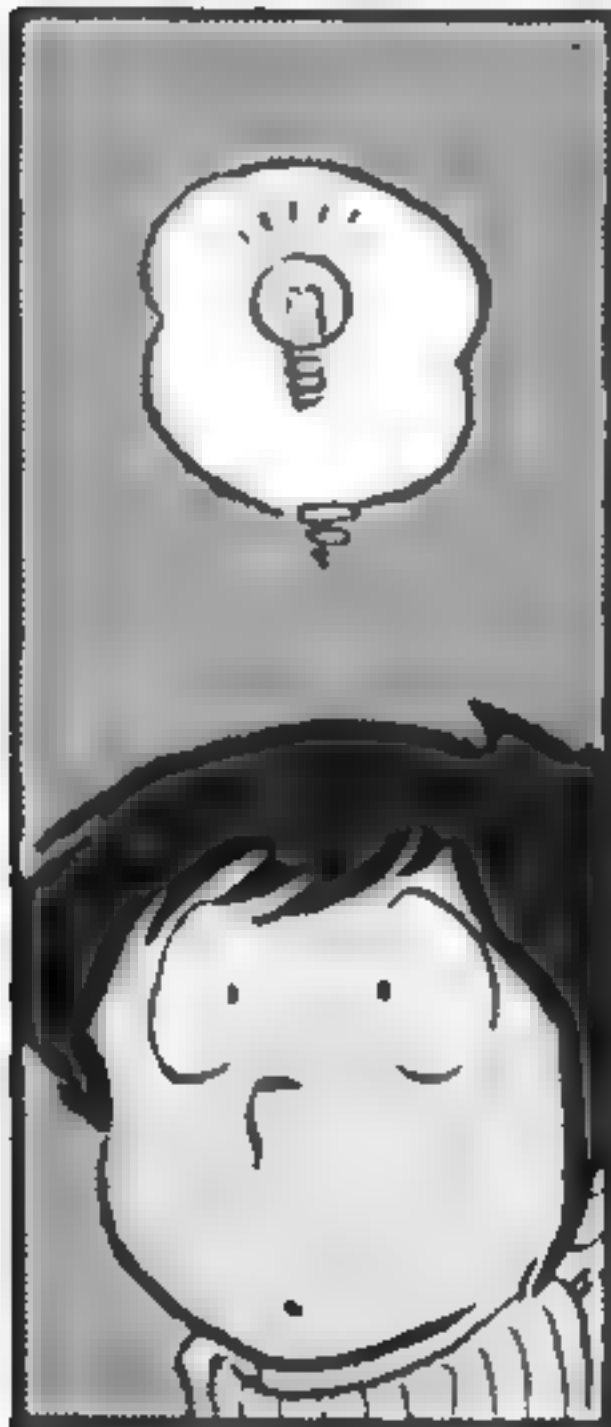
CHAPTER 6: TEN'S LOVE

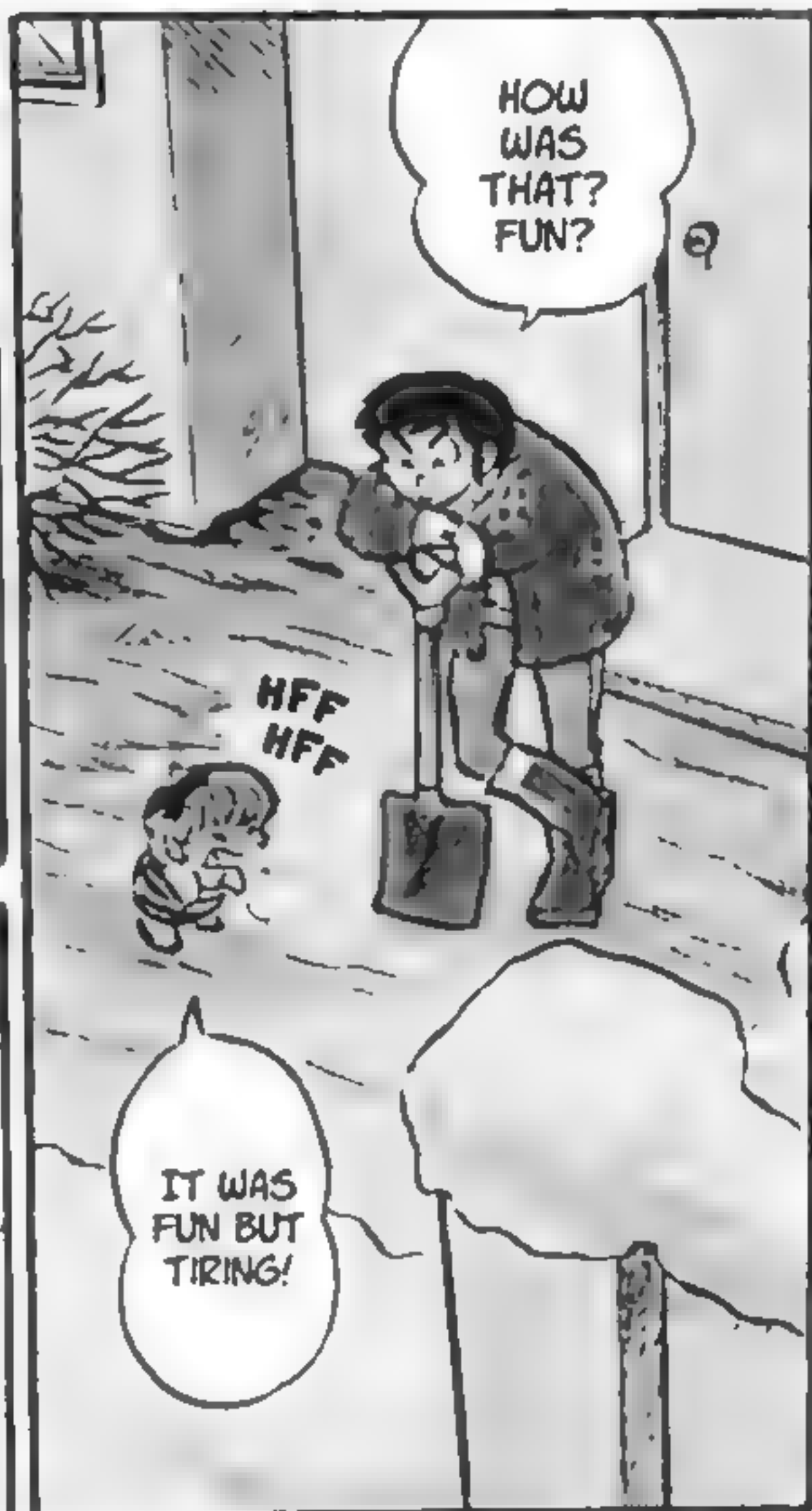


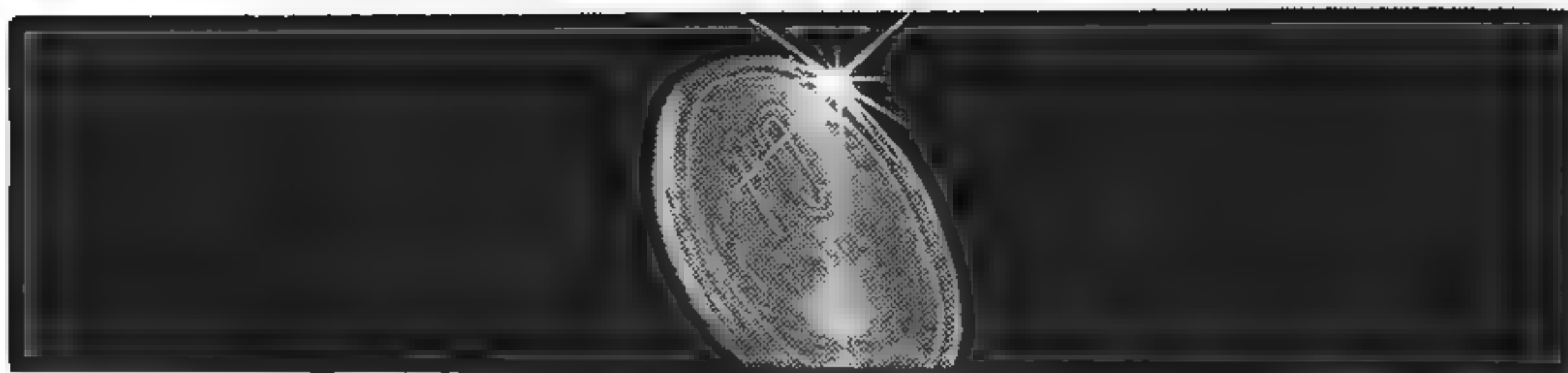








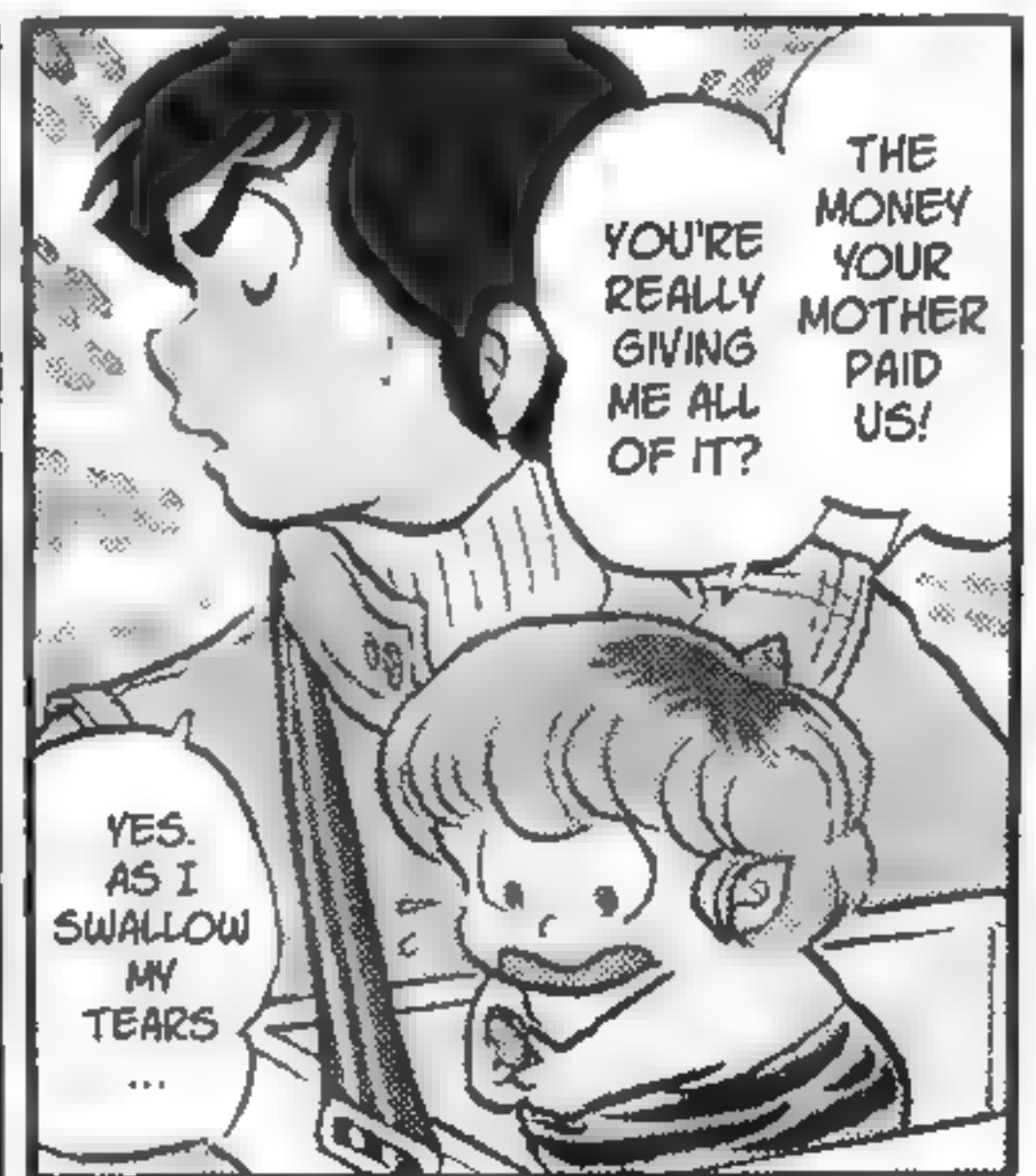
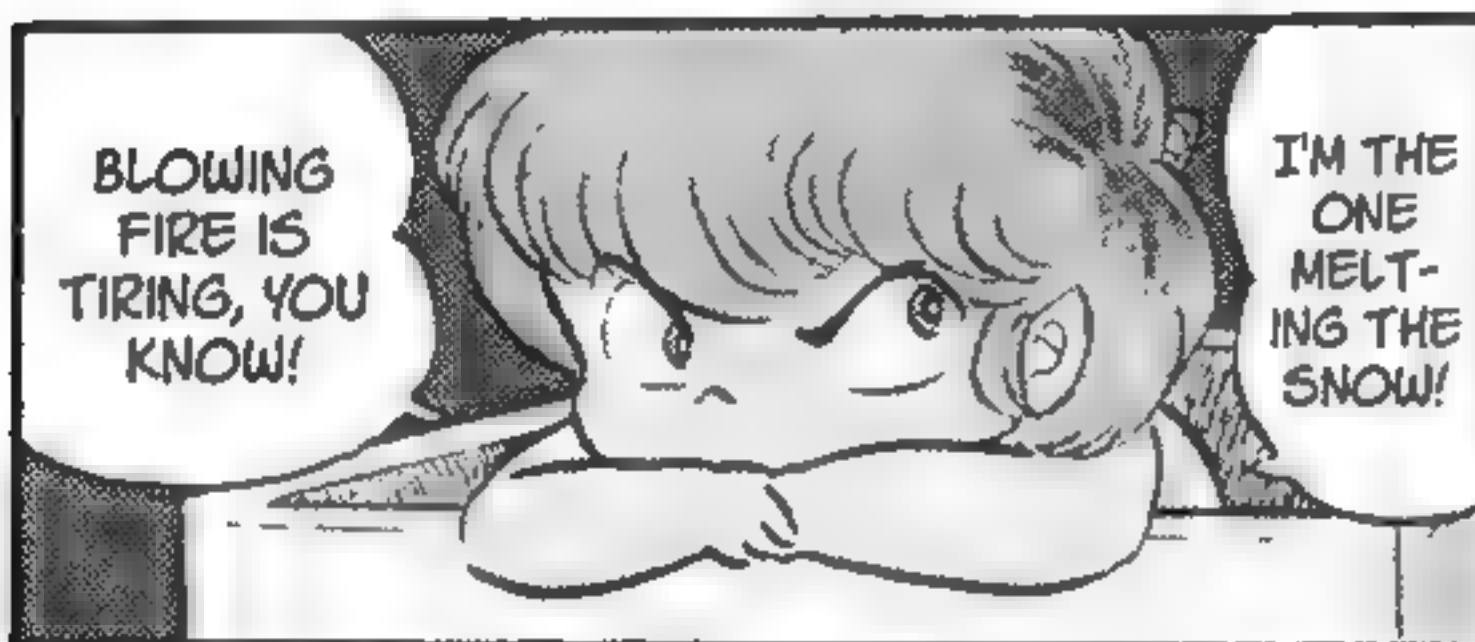
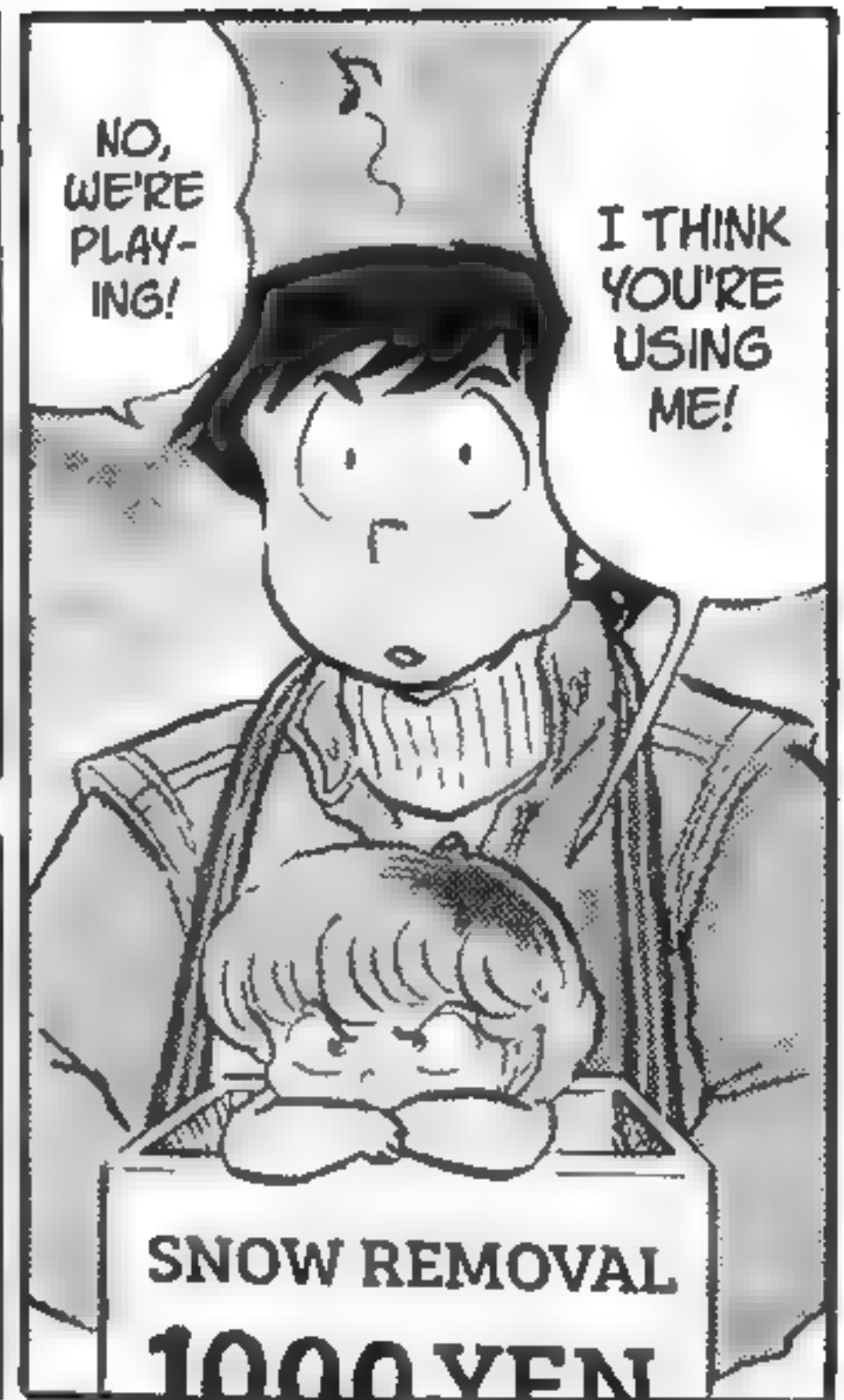


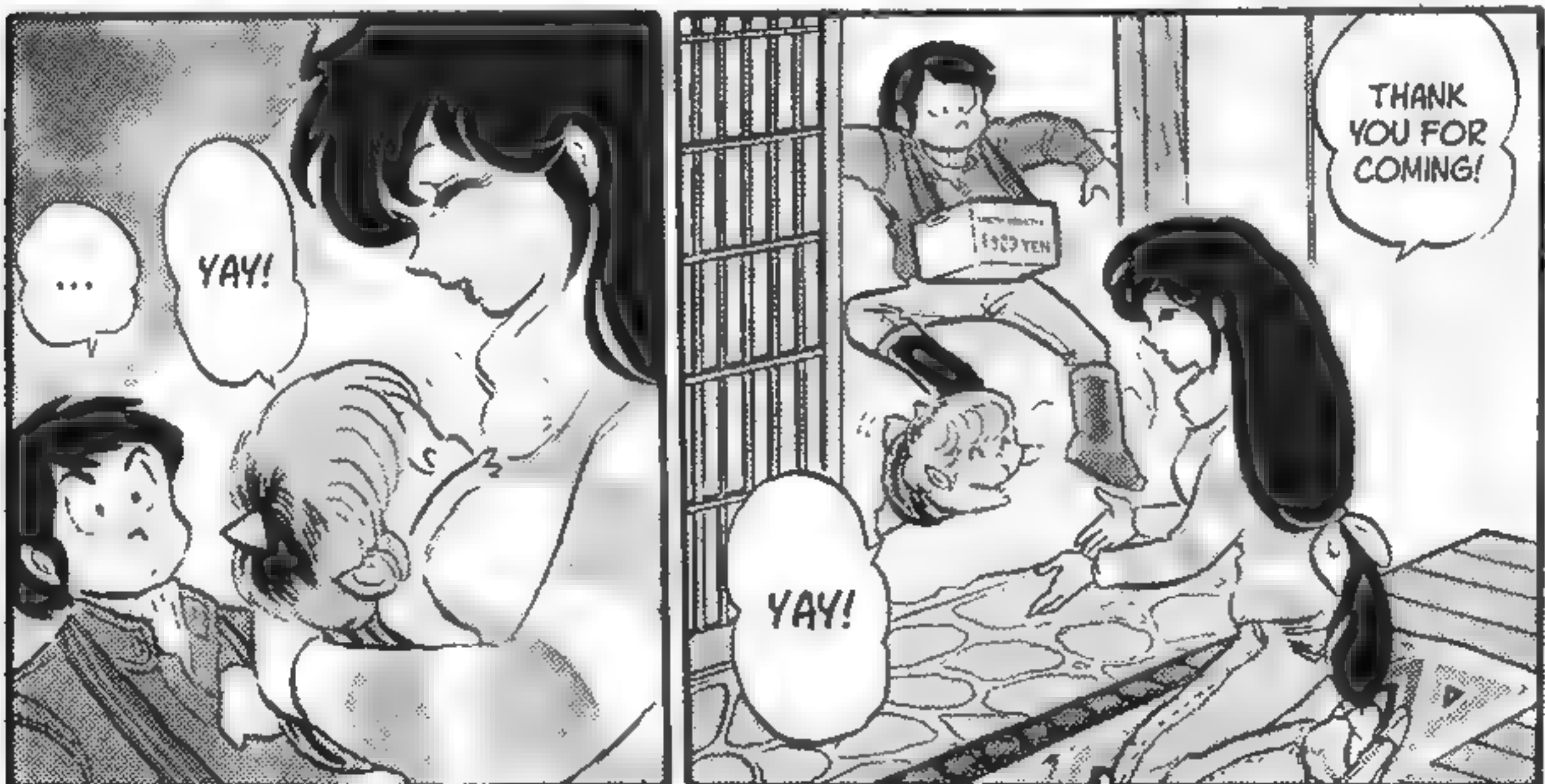
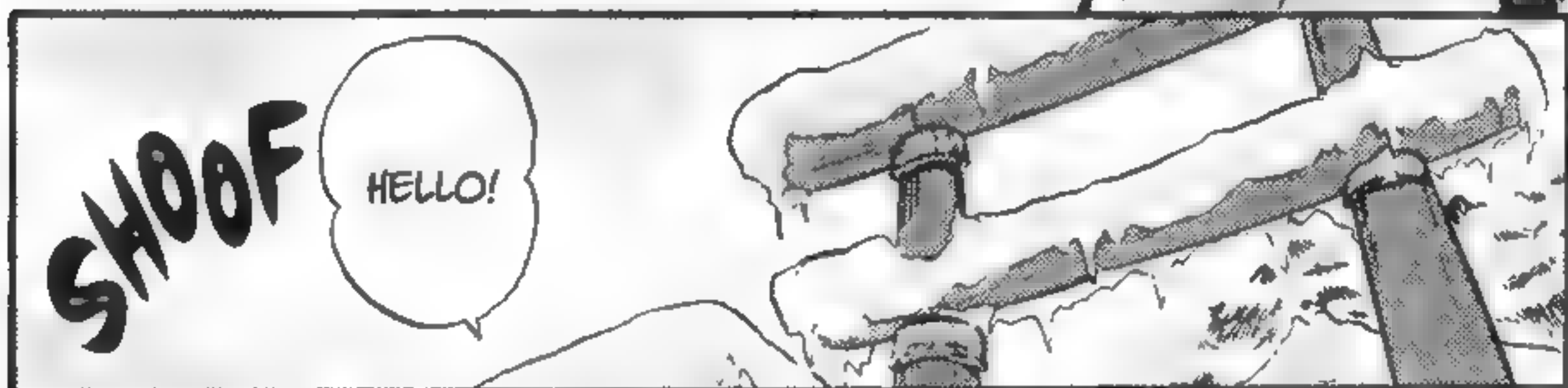


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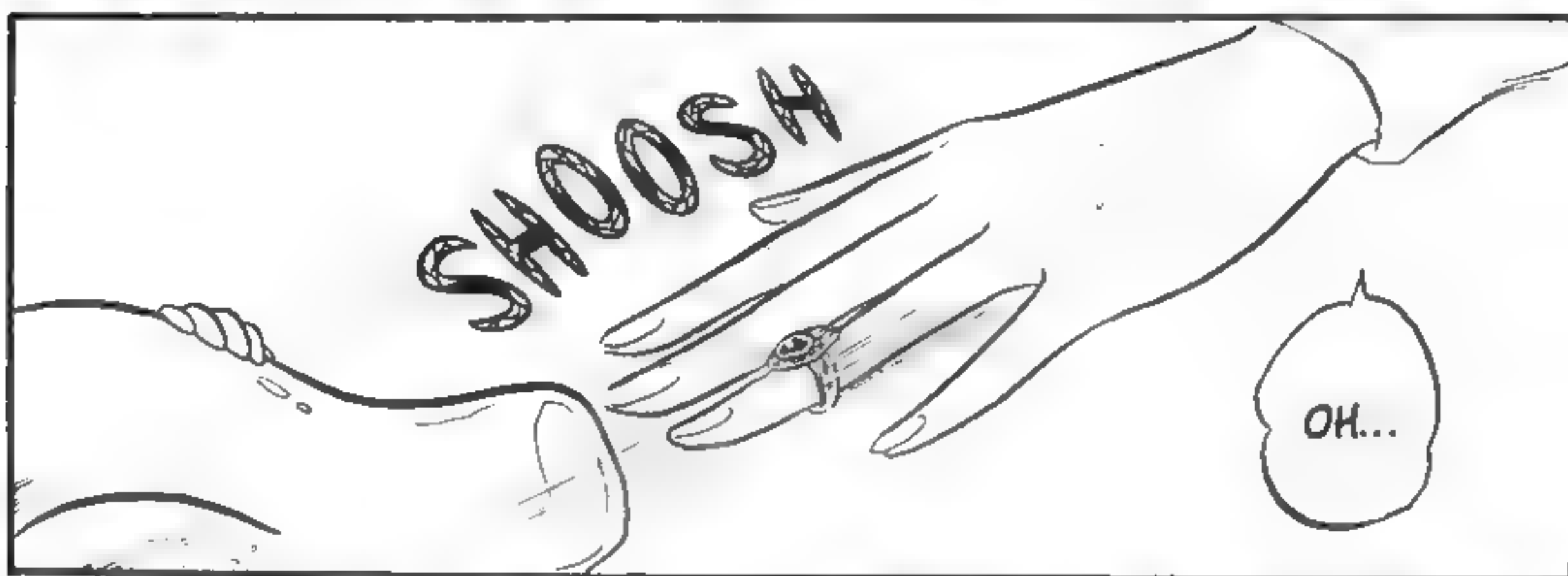
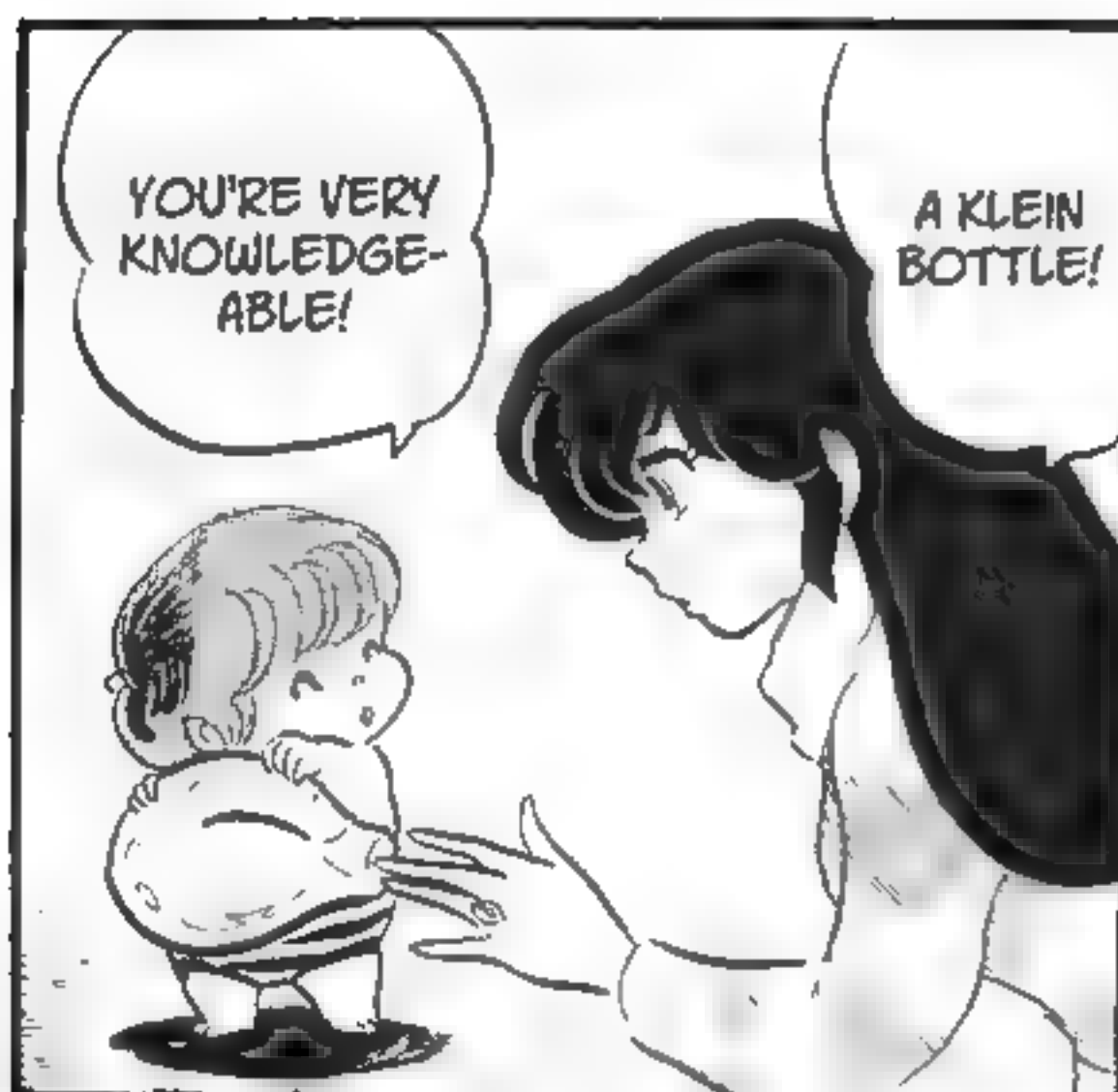
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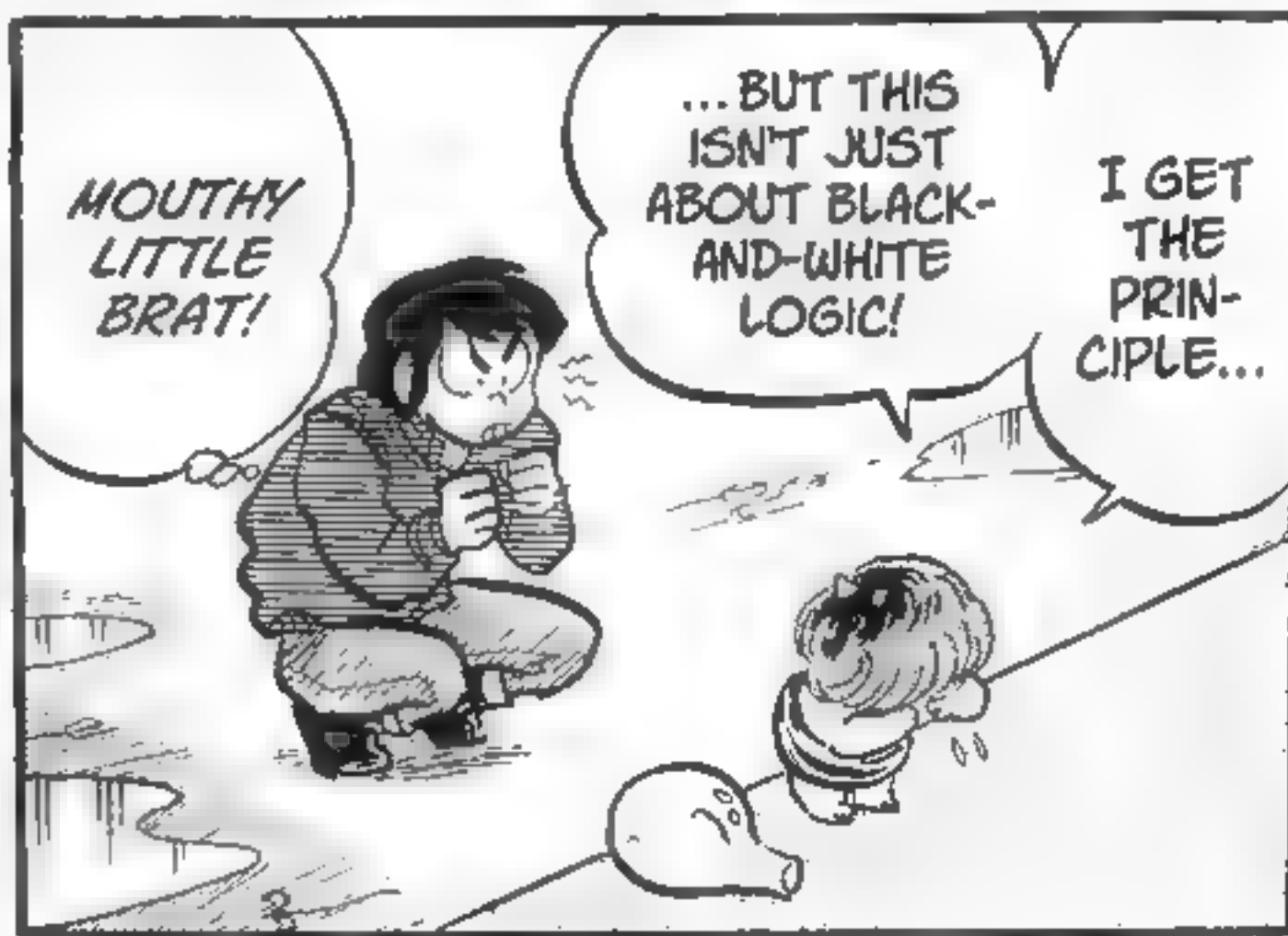




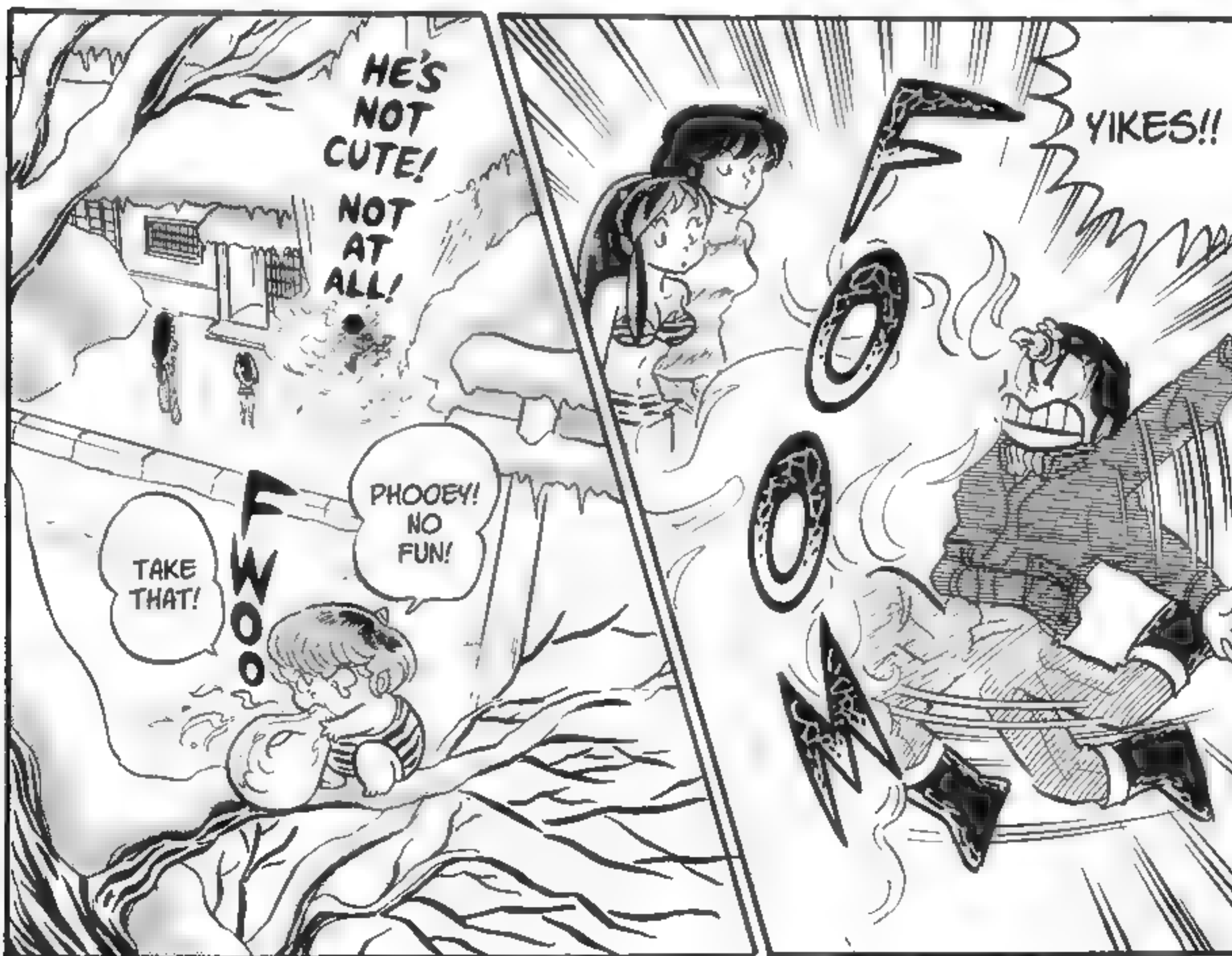
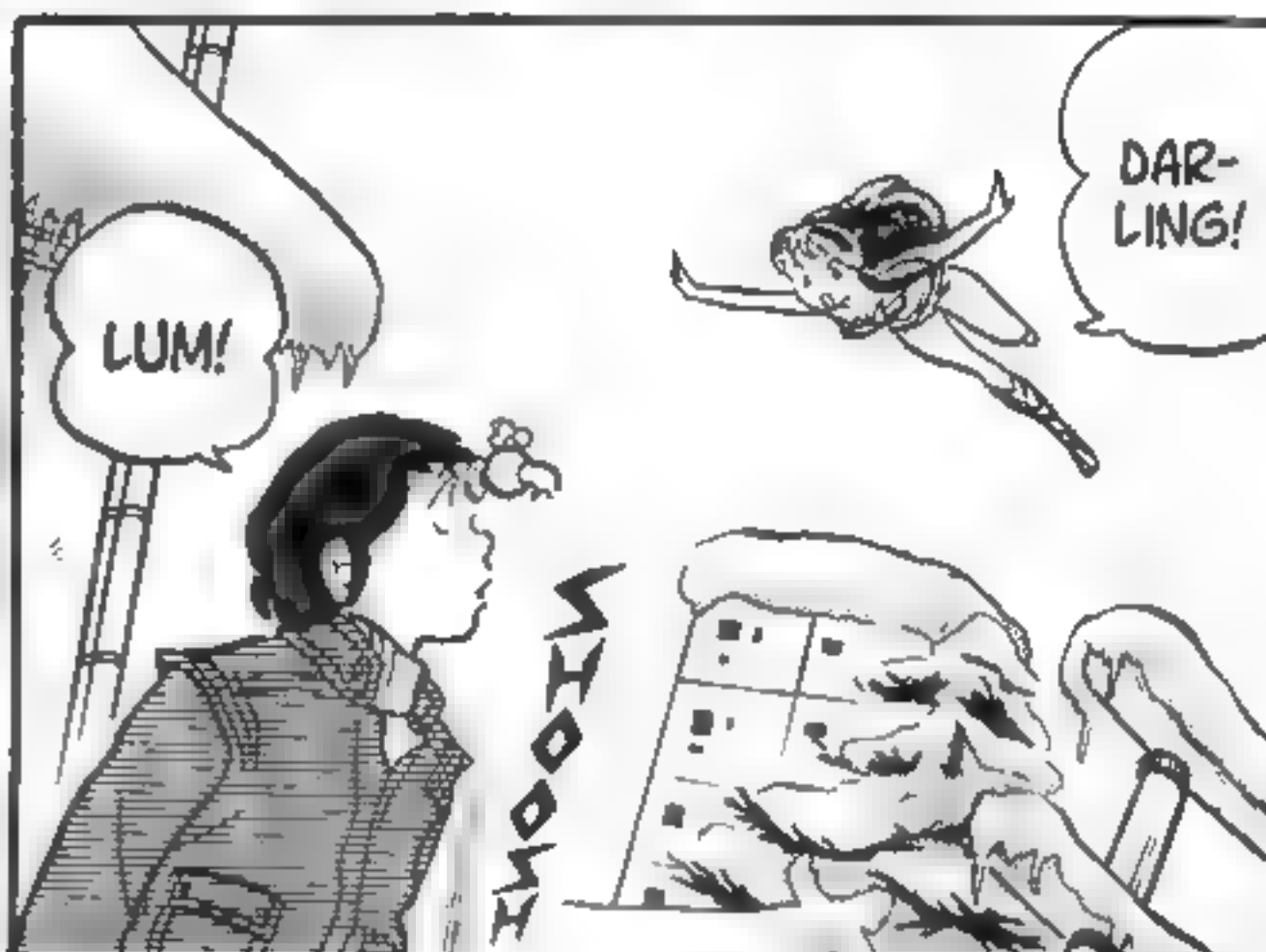






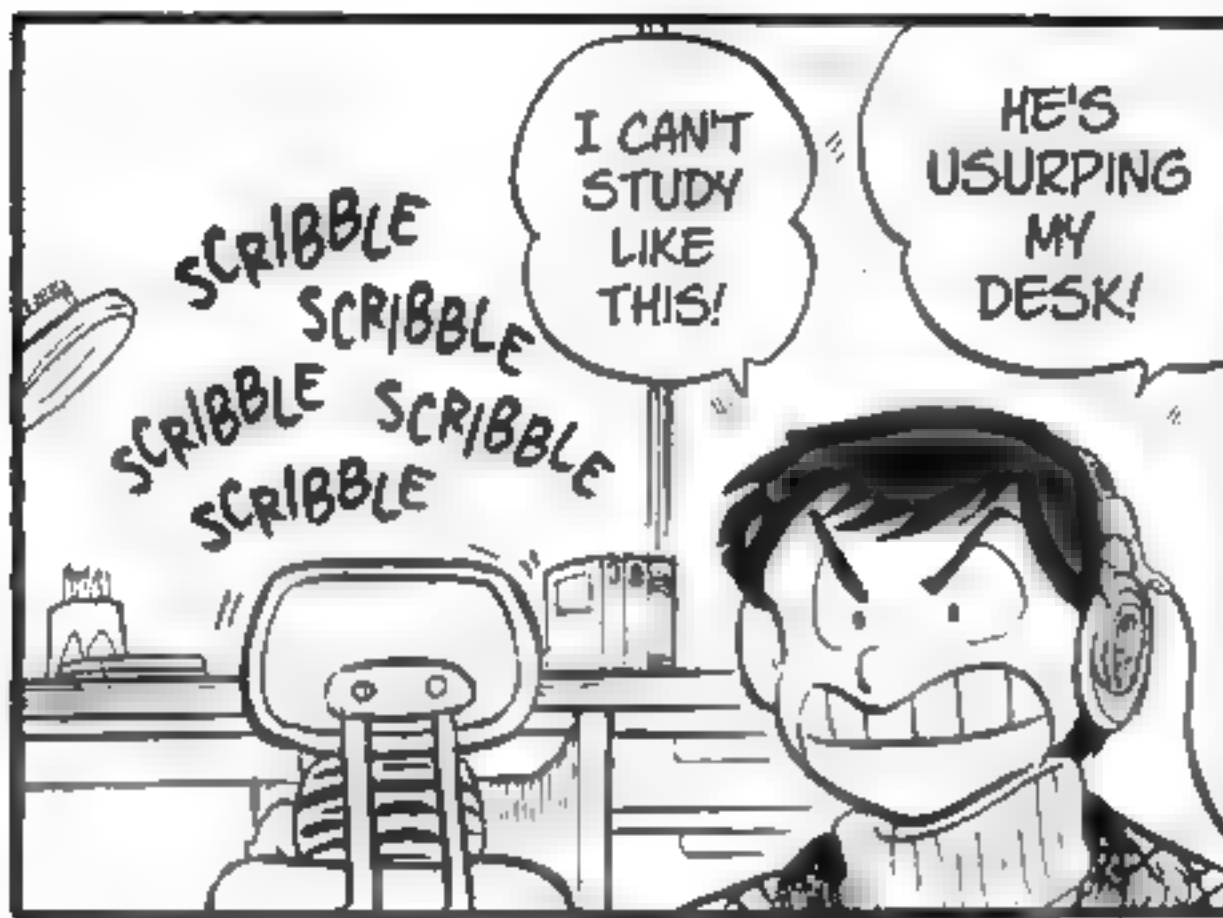


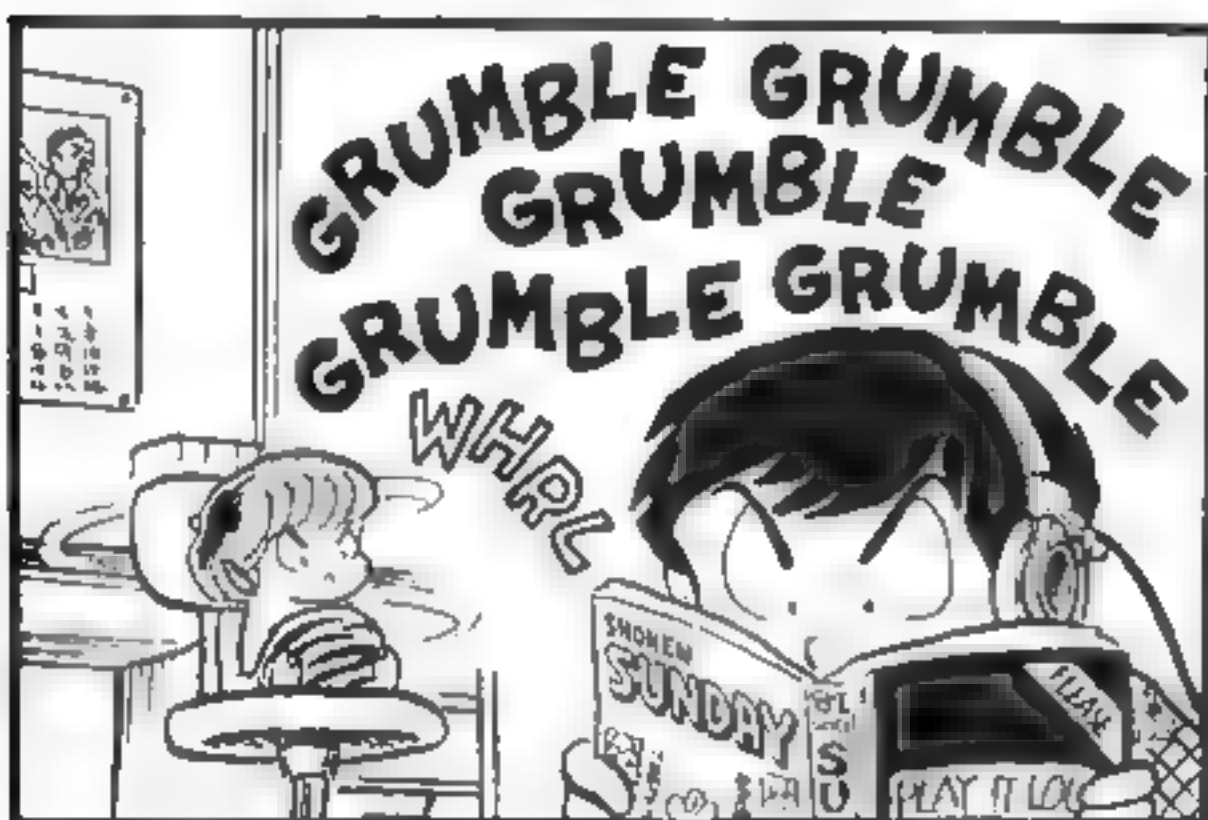


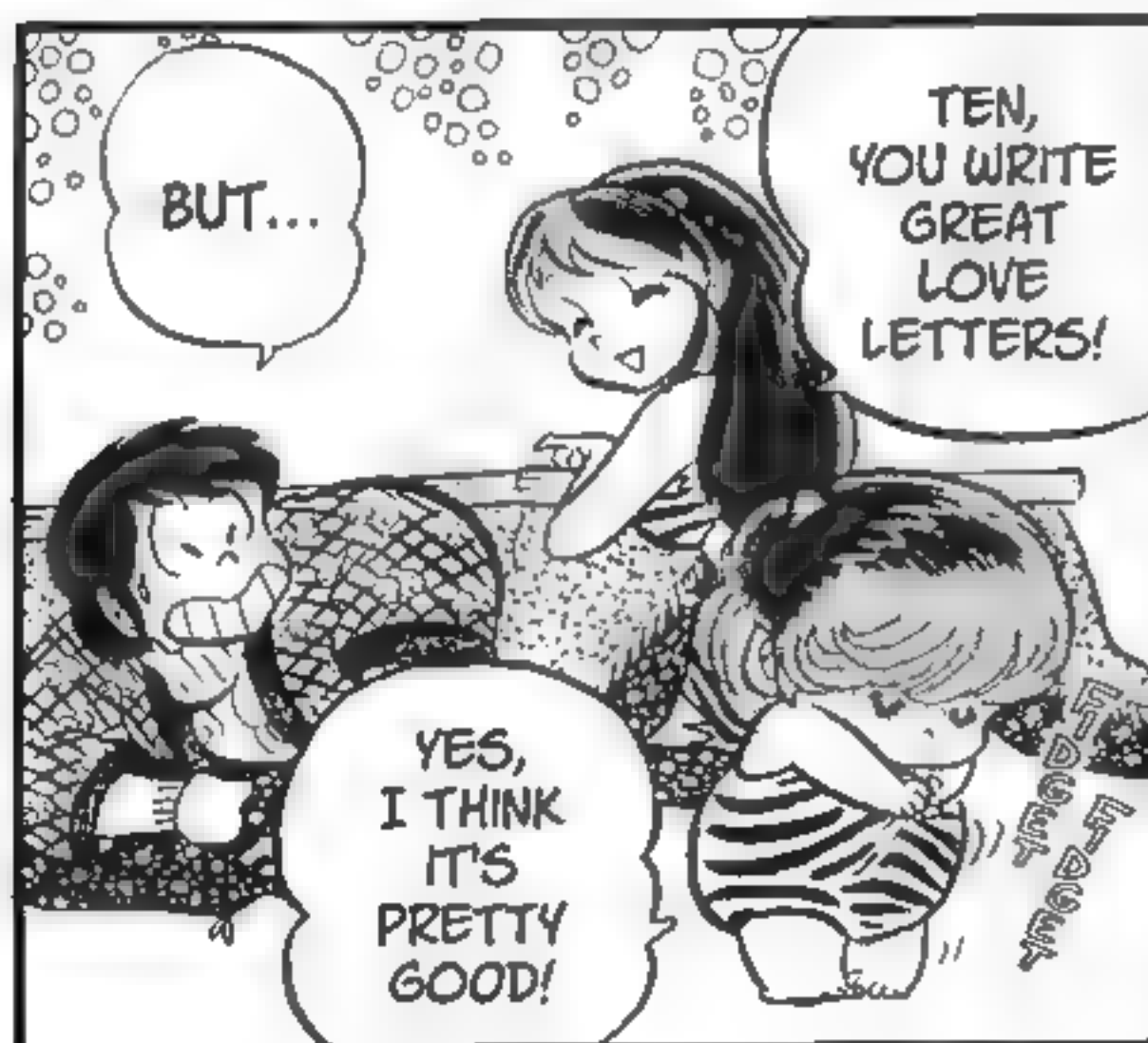


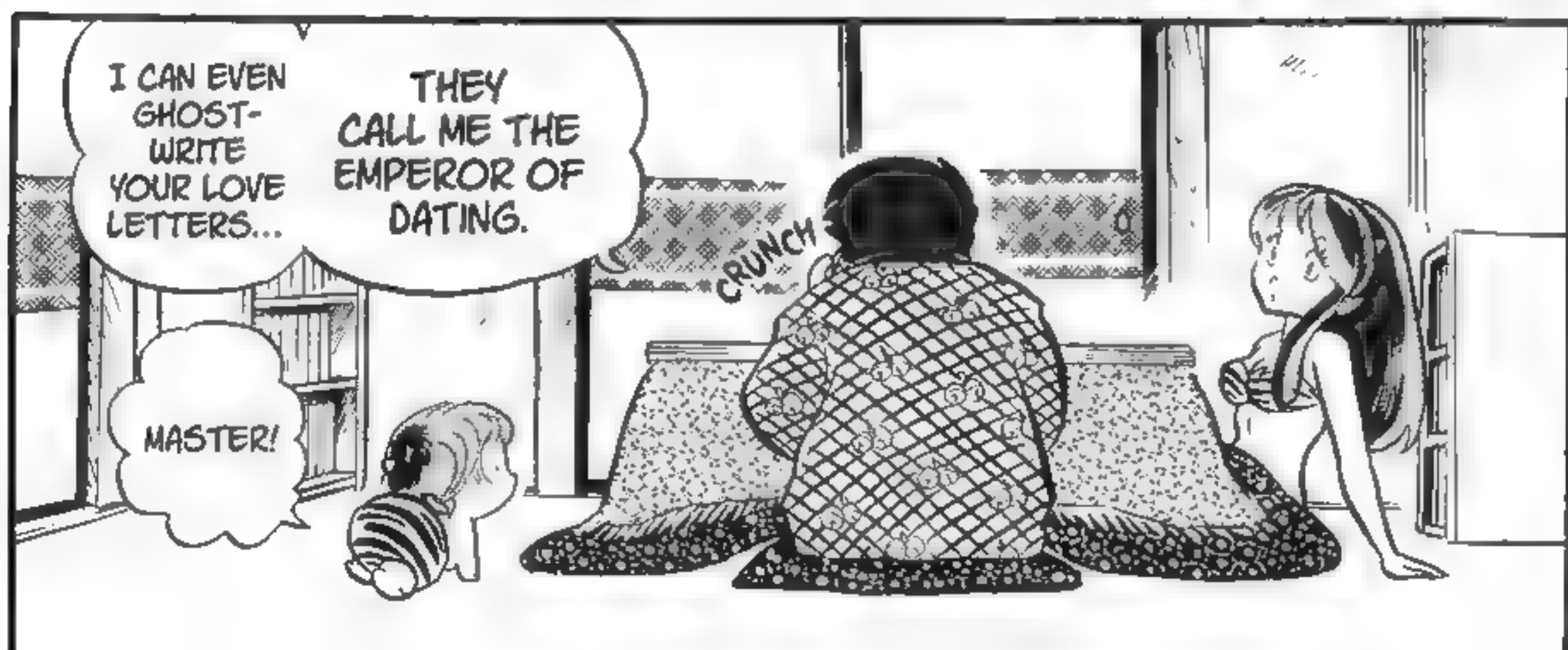
CHAPTER 7: A DATE FOR JUST THE TWO OF US

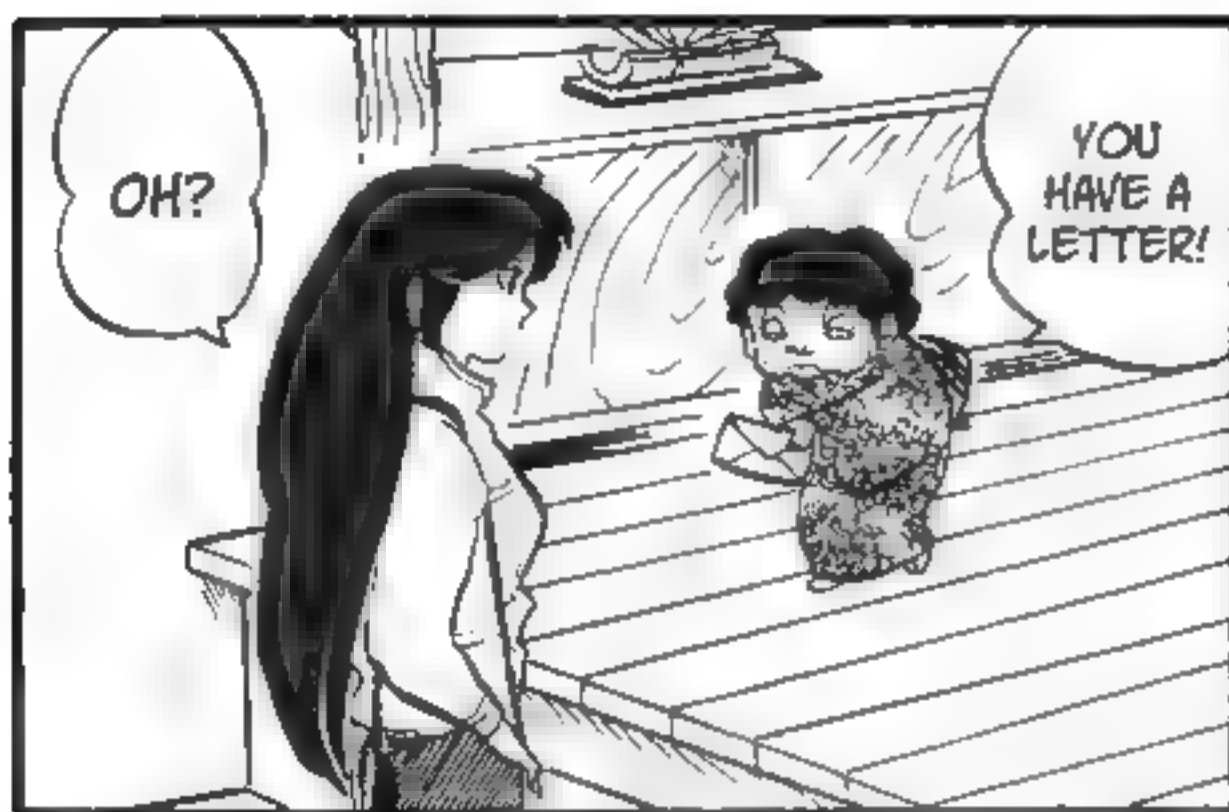














ARE YOU
GOING
OUT,
SAKURA?

I HAVE
TO GO
CLOBBER
AN
IDIOT!



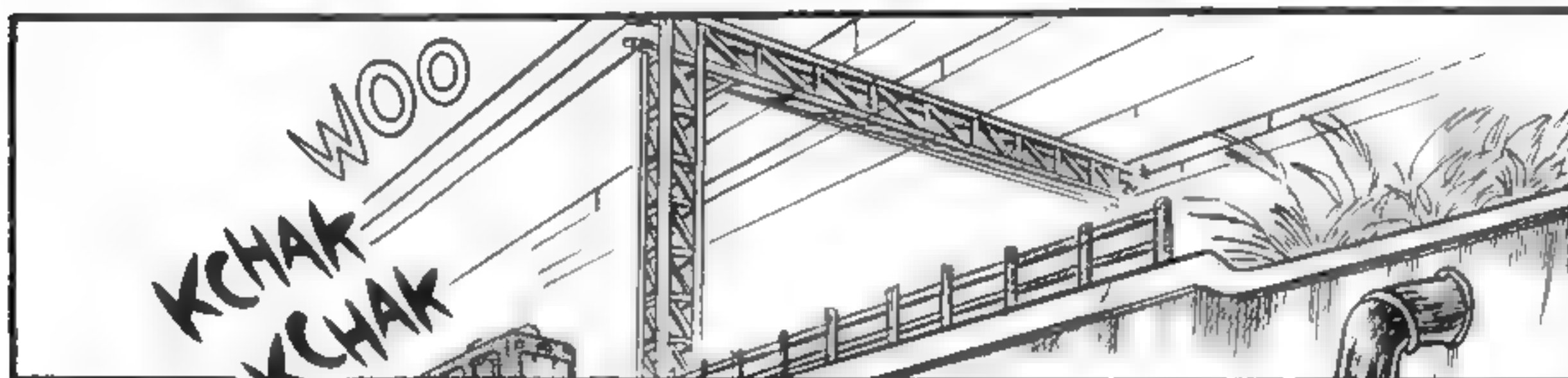
DISGUST-
ING!!



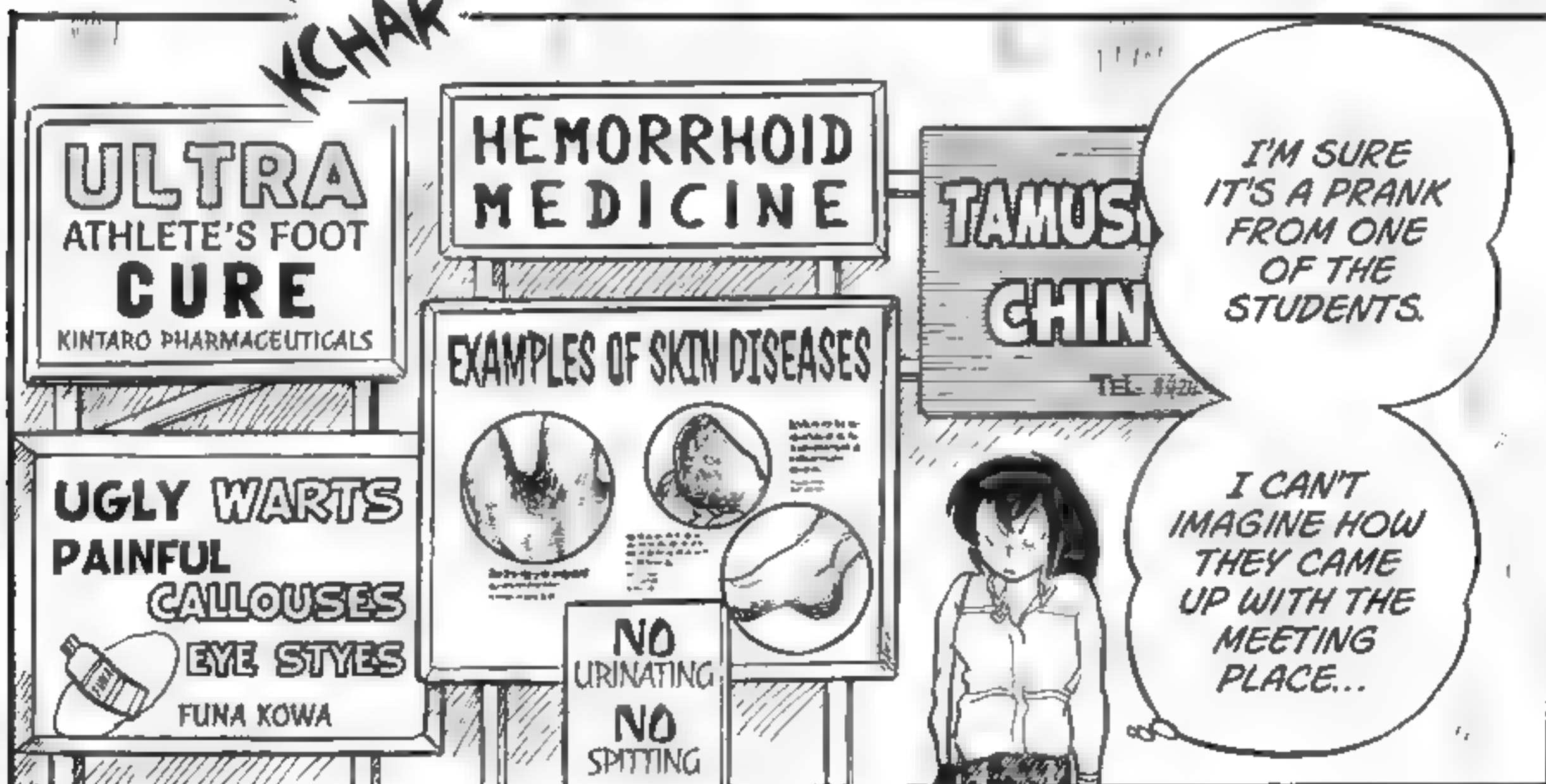
"I WANT TO XXX
YOUR XXX AND
THEN XXX YOU ON
THE XXX"...

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

WHAT?
IT'S FULL
OF
OMISSIONS?



WOO
KCHAK
KCHAK
KCHAK



ULTRA
ATHLETE'S FOOT
CURE
KINTARO PHARMACEUTICALS

**HEMORRHOID
MEDICINE**

**TAMUS
CHIN**
TEL. 8422

**UGLY WARTS
PAINFUL
CALLOUSES
EYE STYES**
FUNA KOWA

EXAMPLES OF SKIN DISEASES

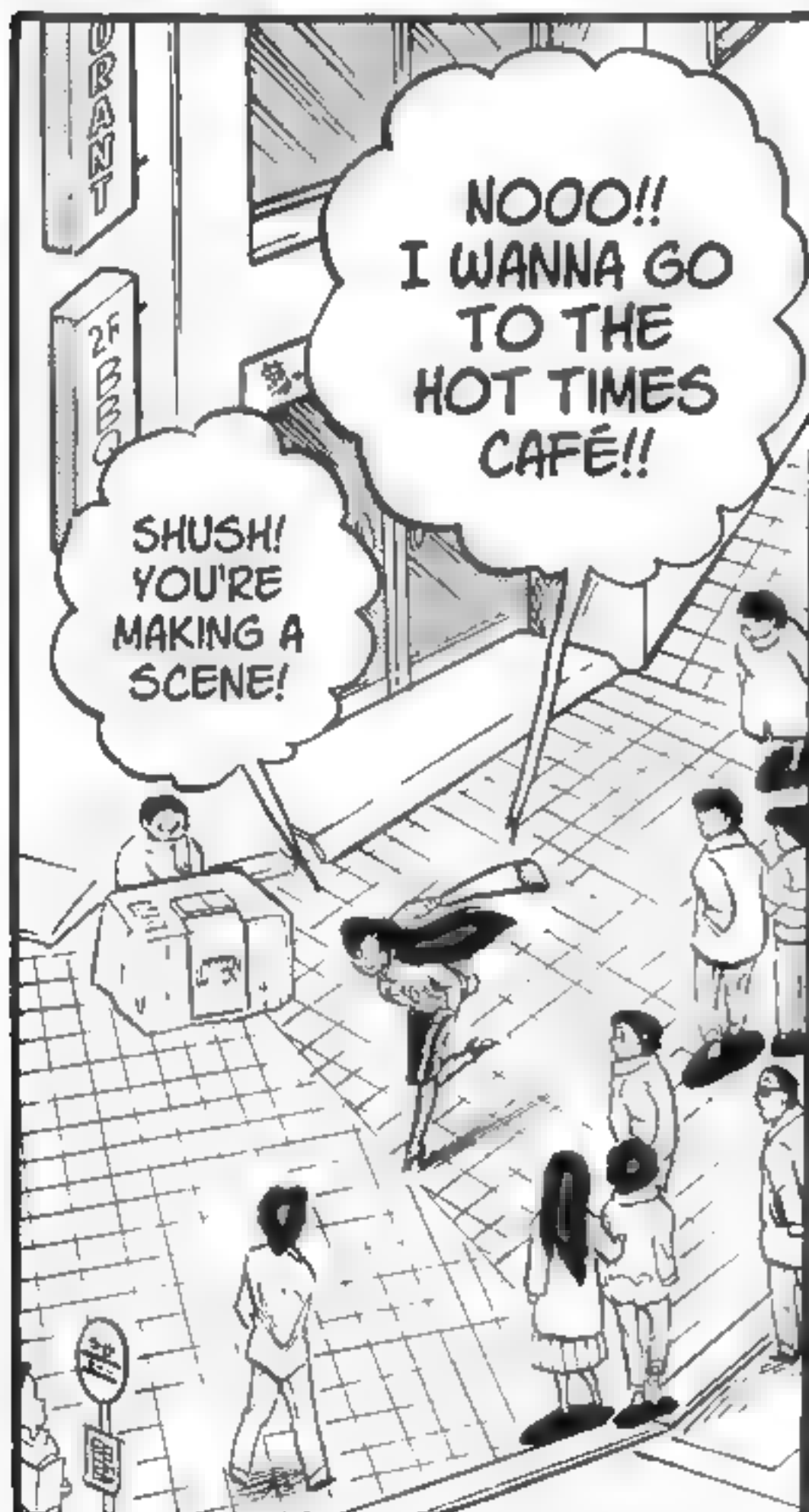
**NO
URINATING
NO
SPITTING**

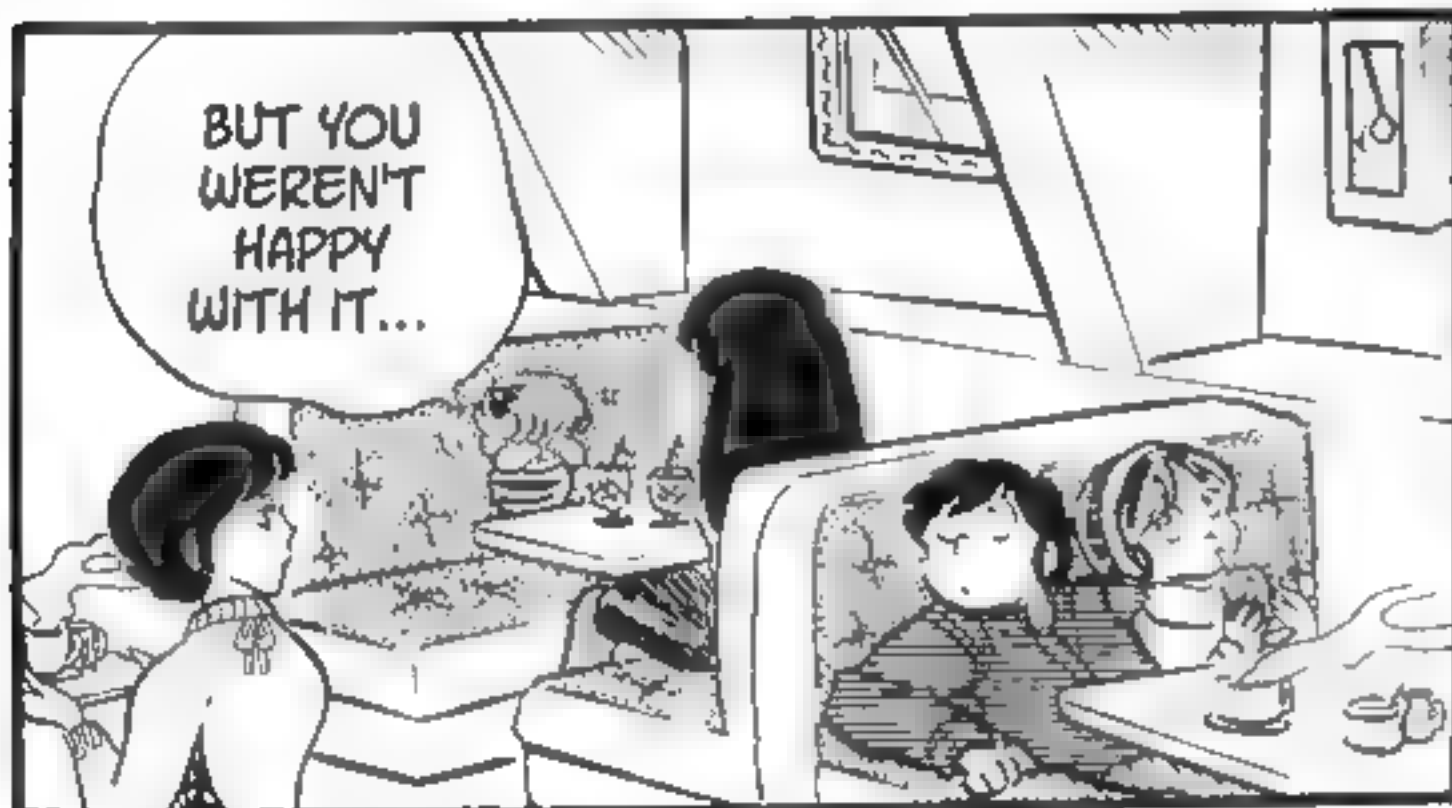
I'M SURE
IT'S A PRANK
FROM ONE
OF THE
STUDENTS.

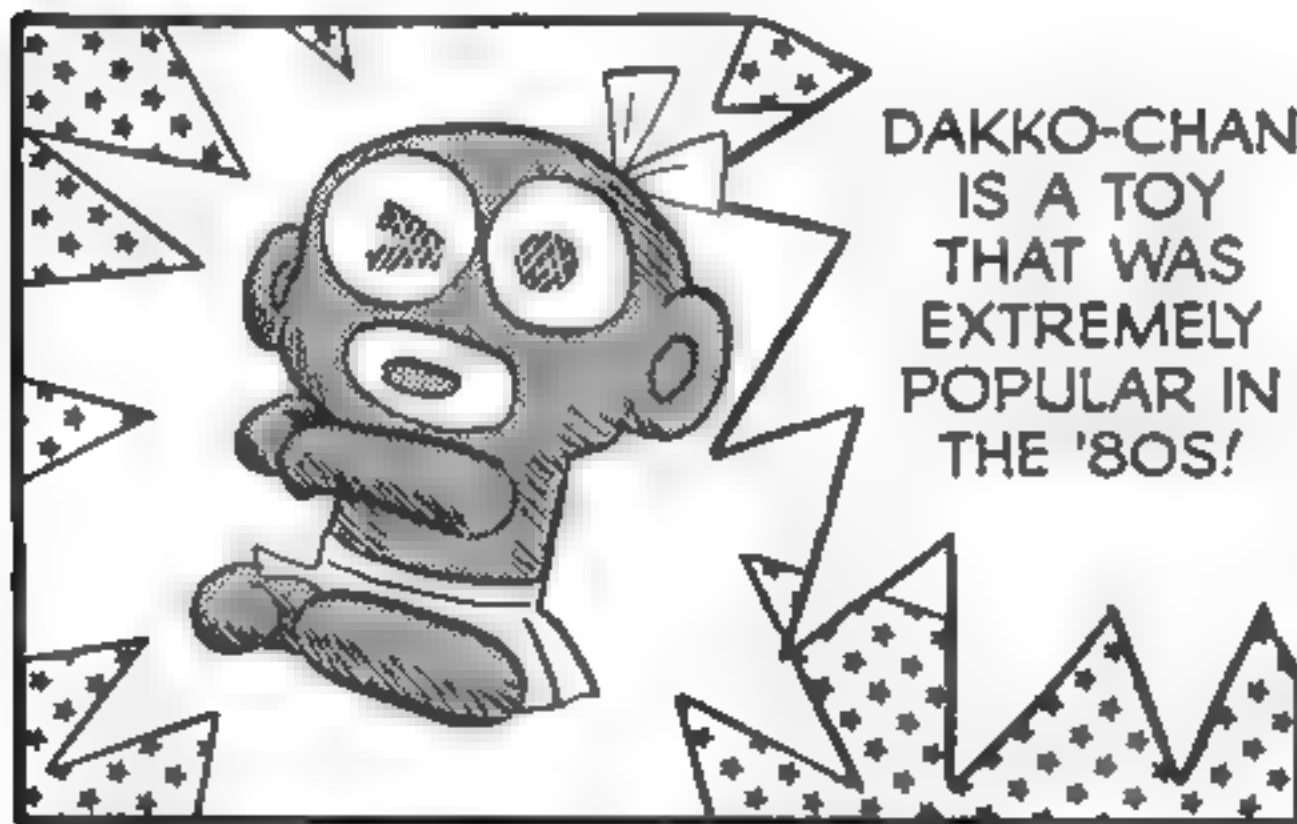
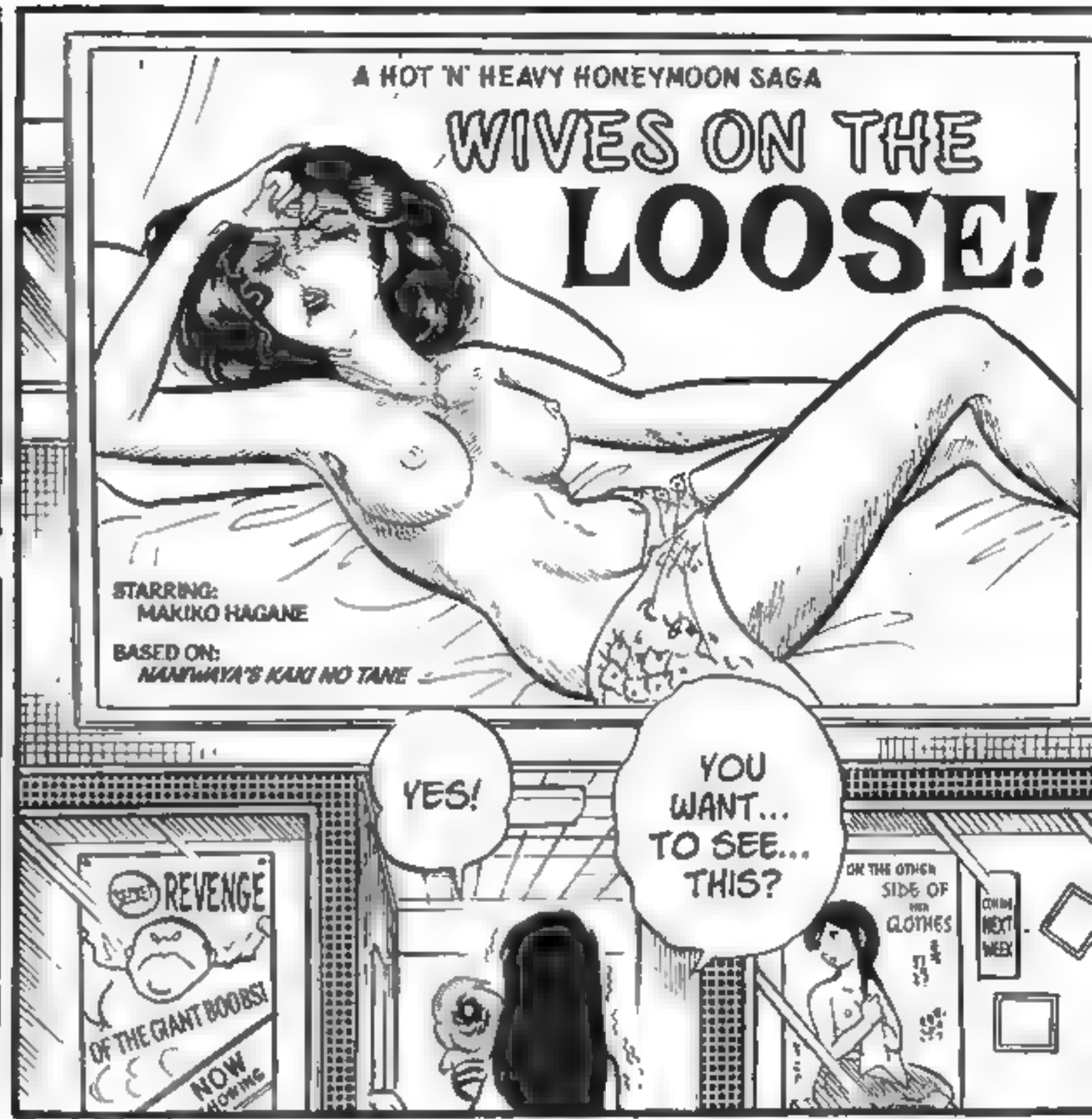
I CAN'T
IMAGINE HOW
THEY CAME
UP WITH THE
MEETING
PLACE...

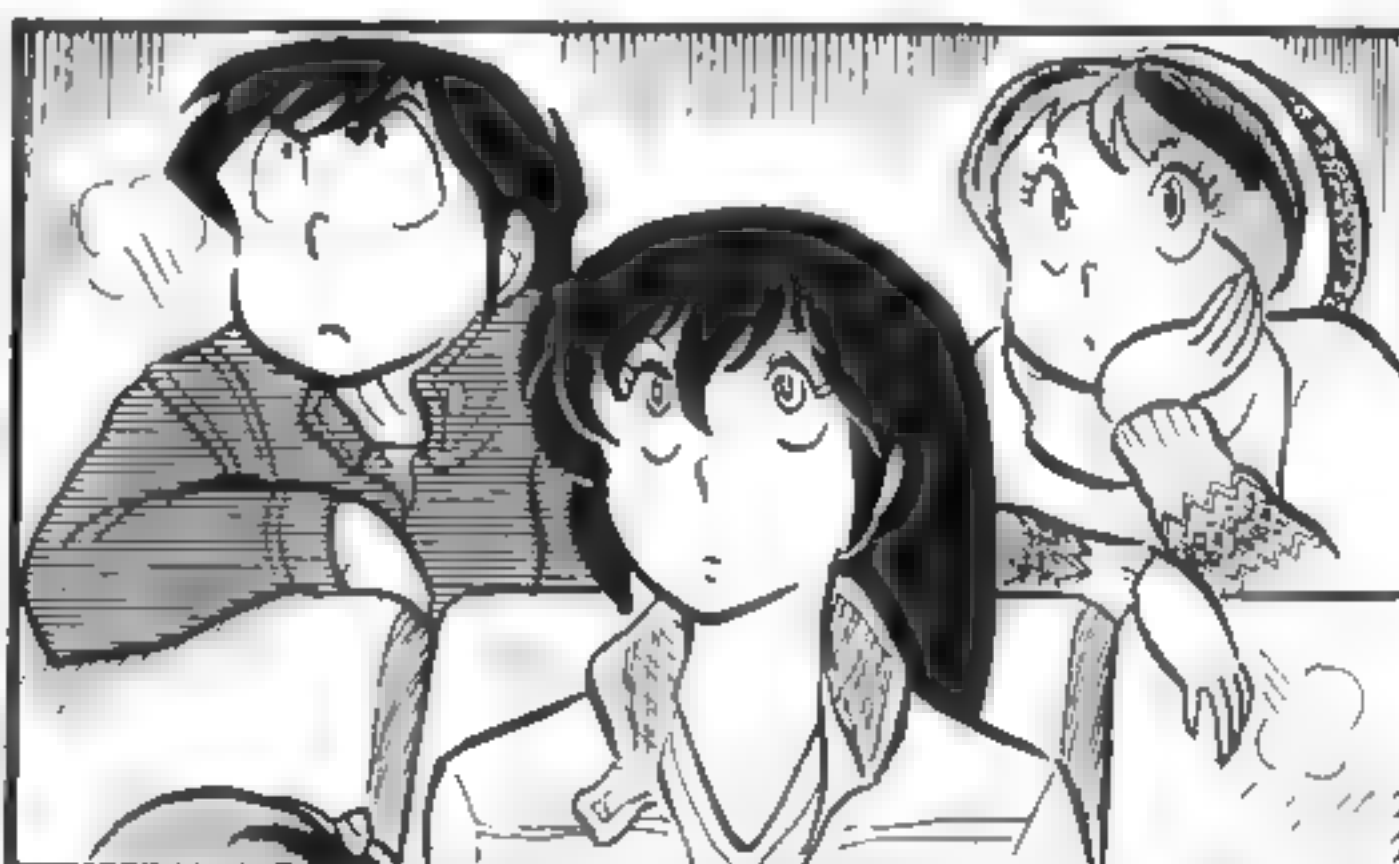
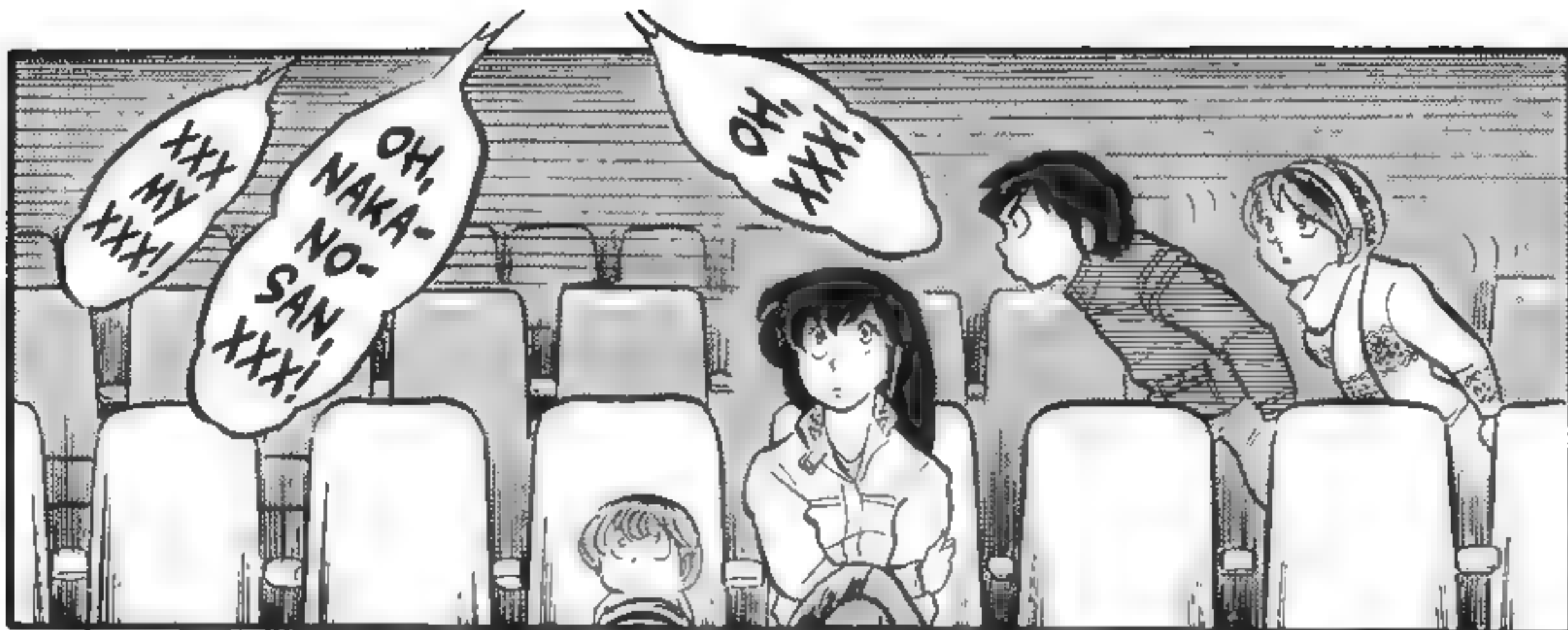










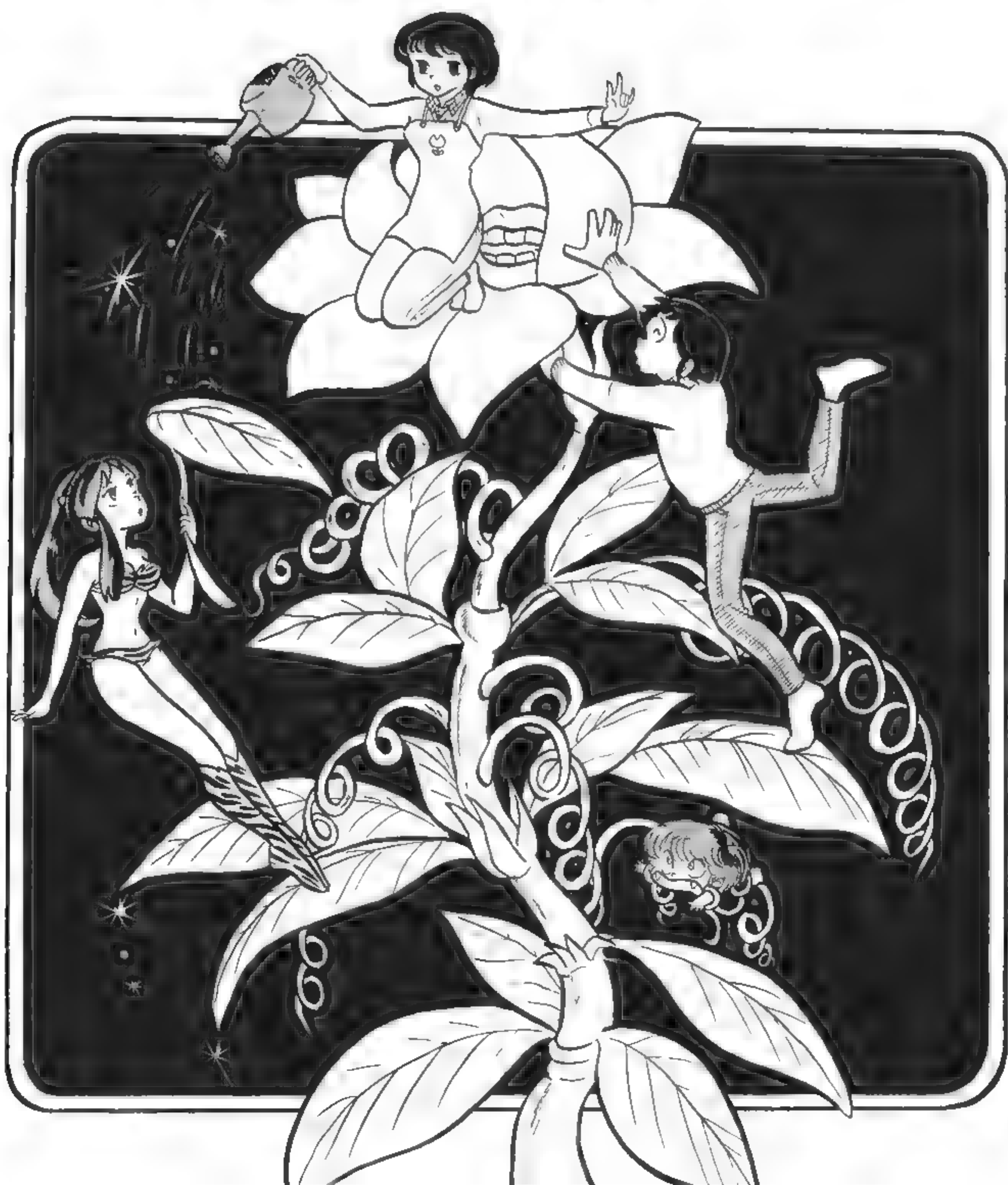




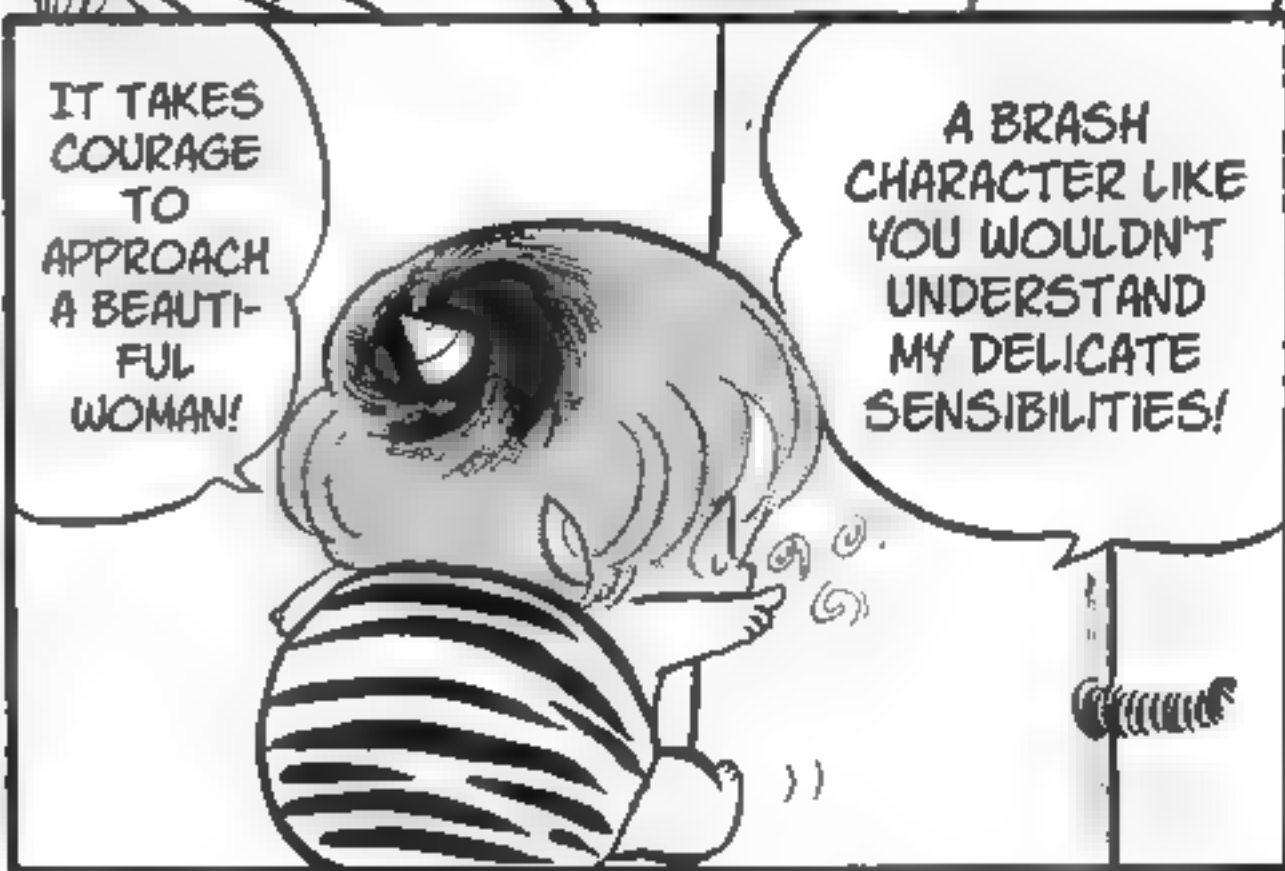


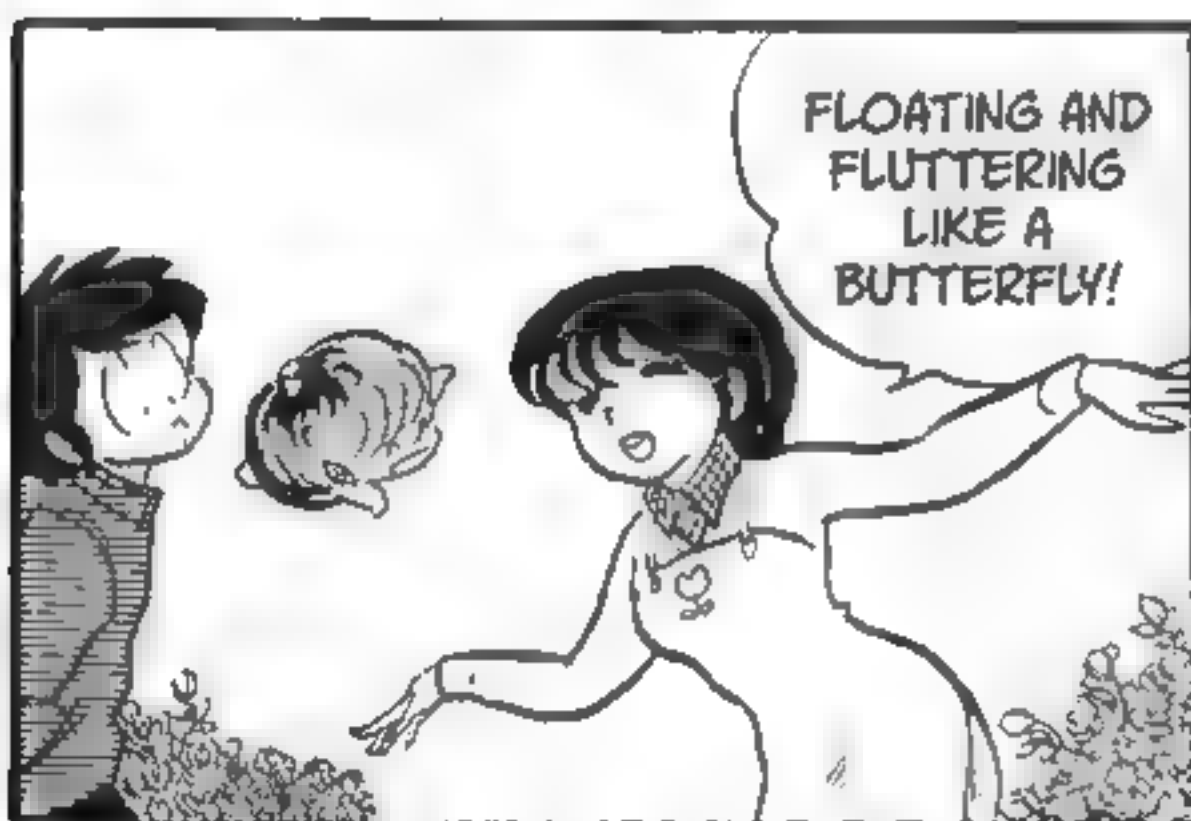
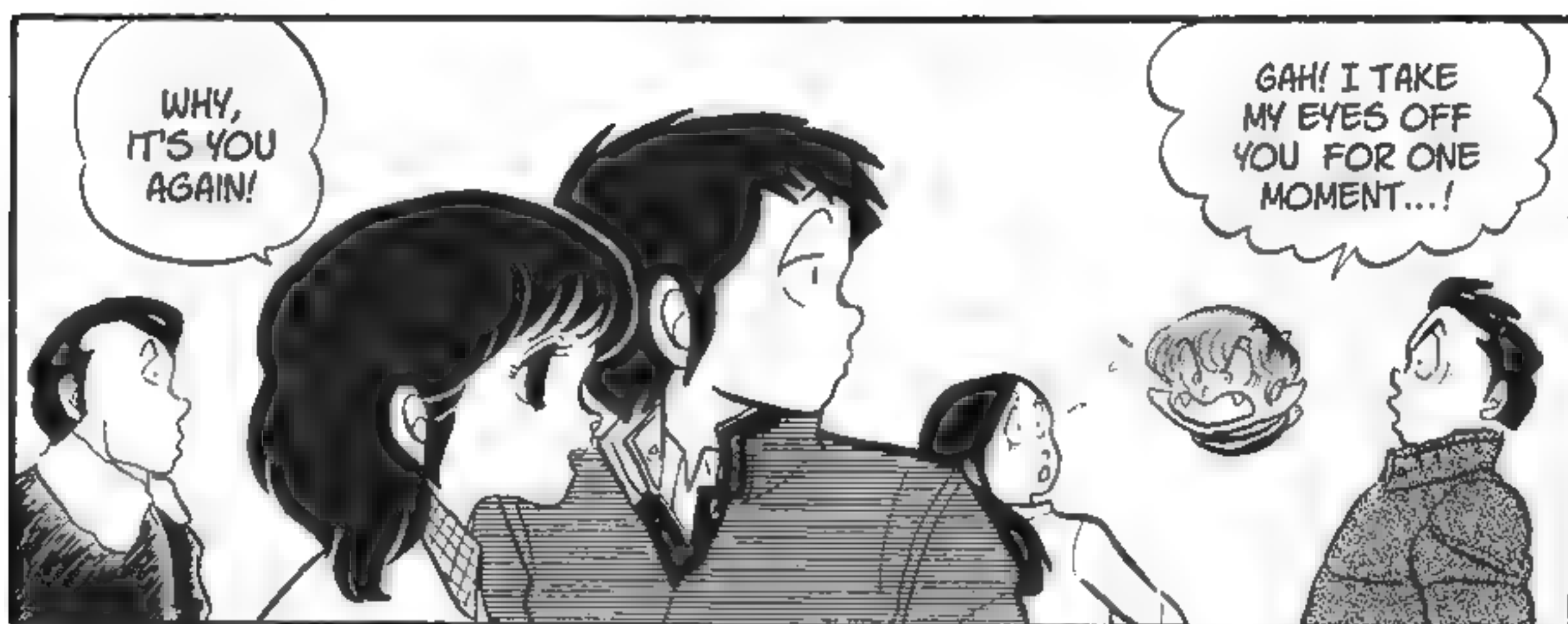


CHAPTER 8: FROM FLOWER TO FLOWER









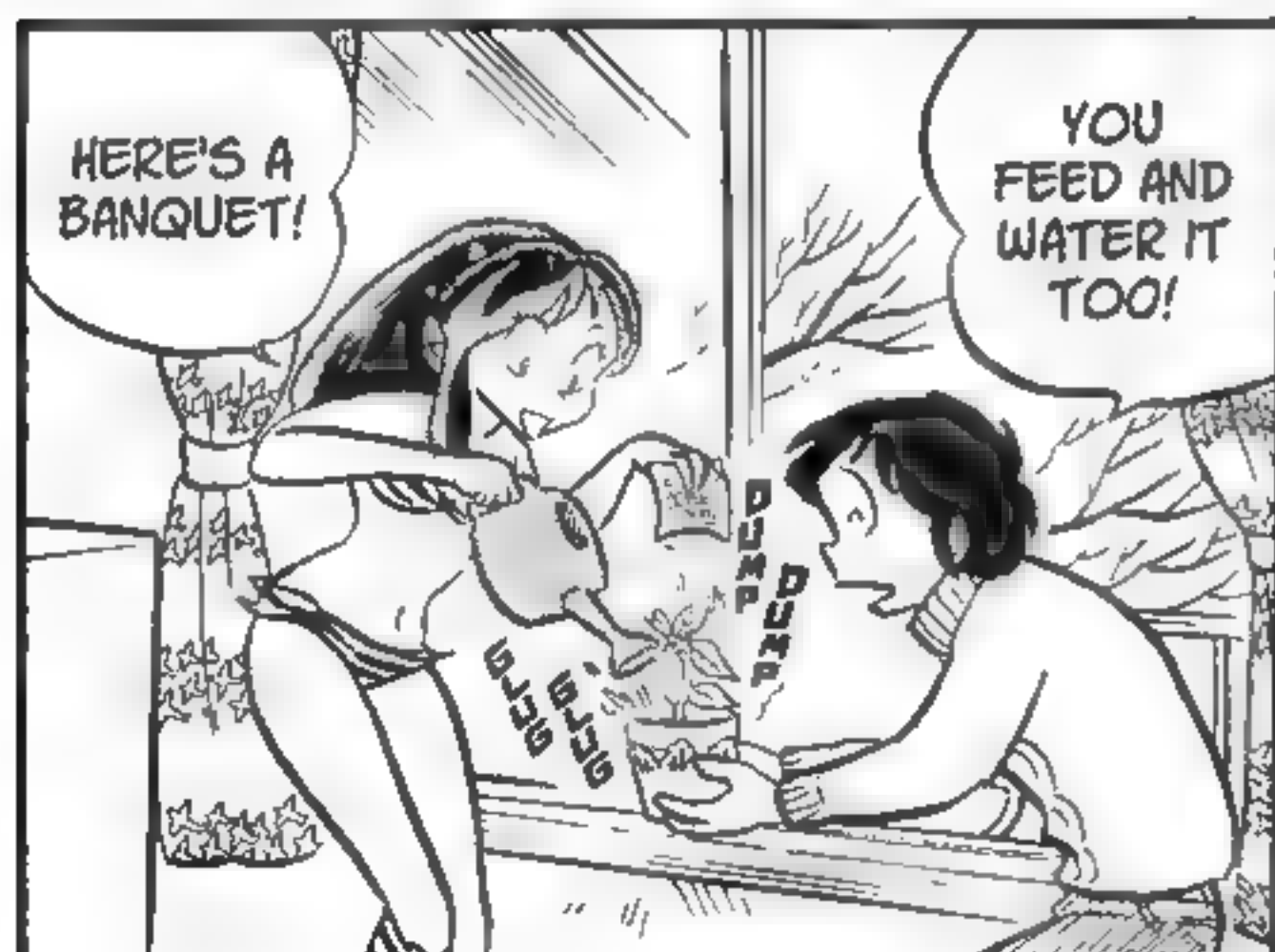




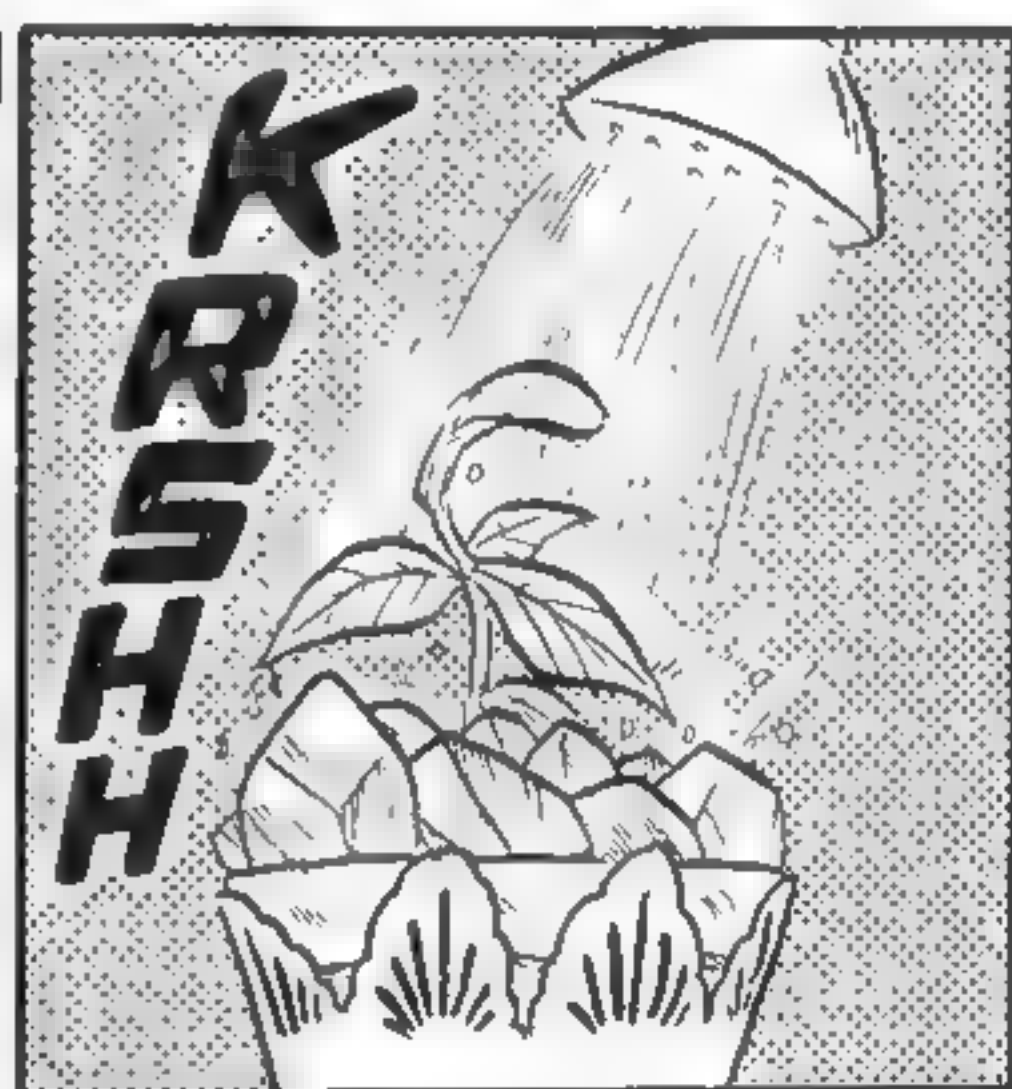
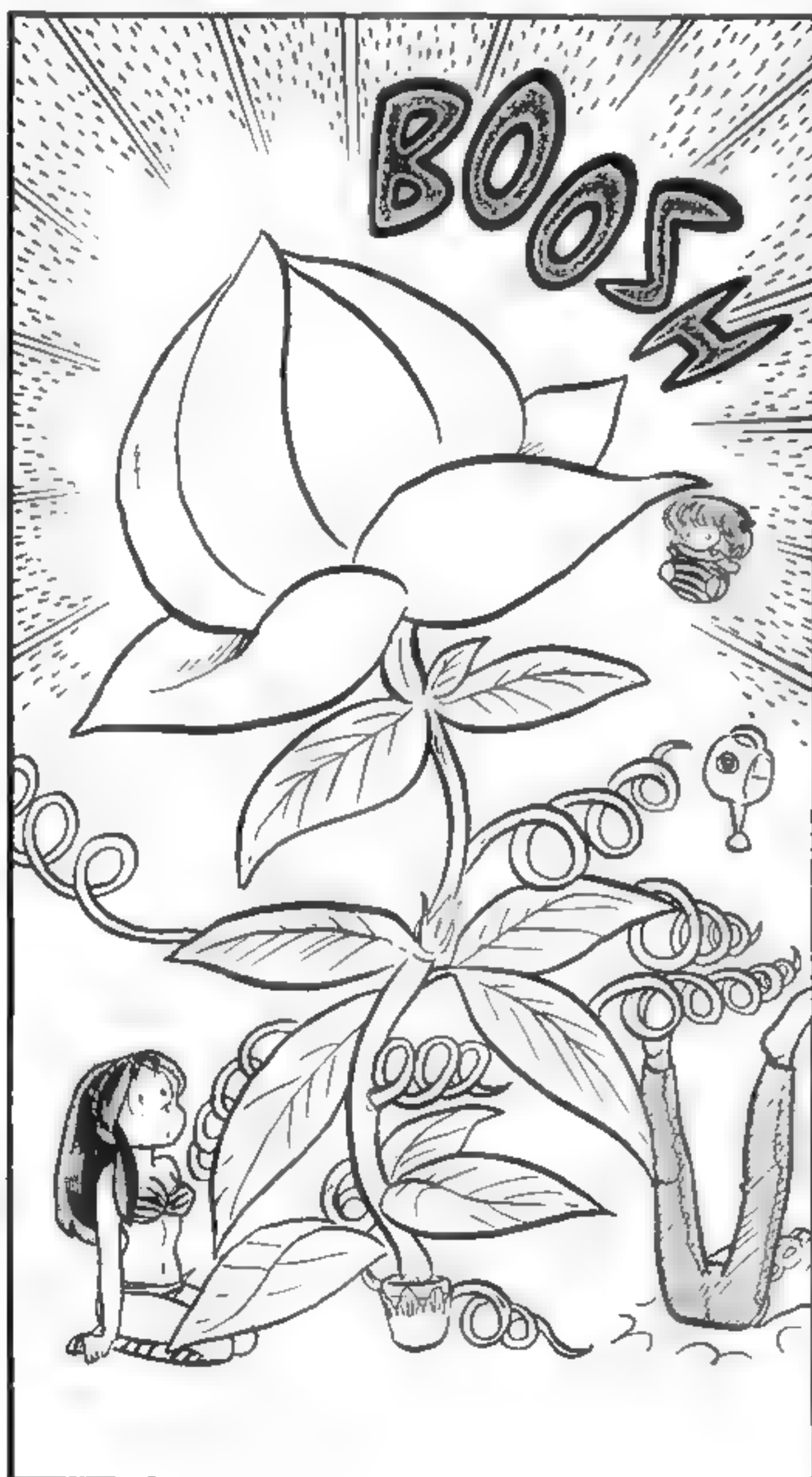
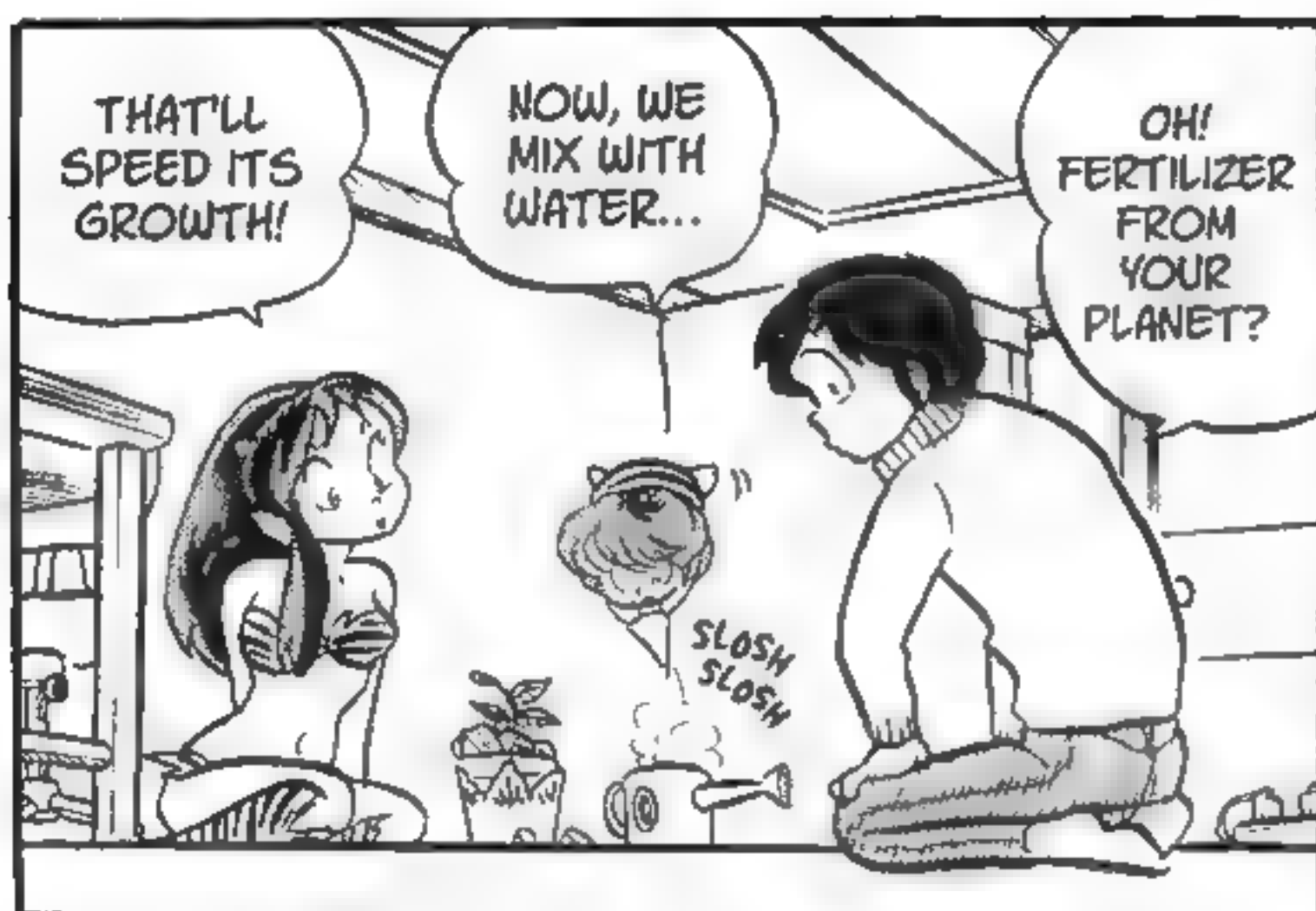
HOW TO KEEP YOUR FLOWER HEALTHY...

50 THINGS NOT TO DO

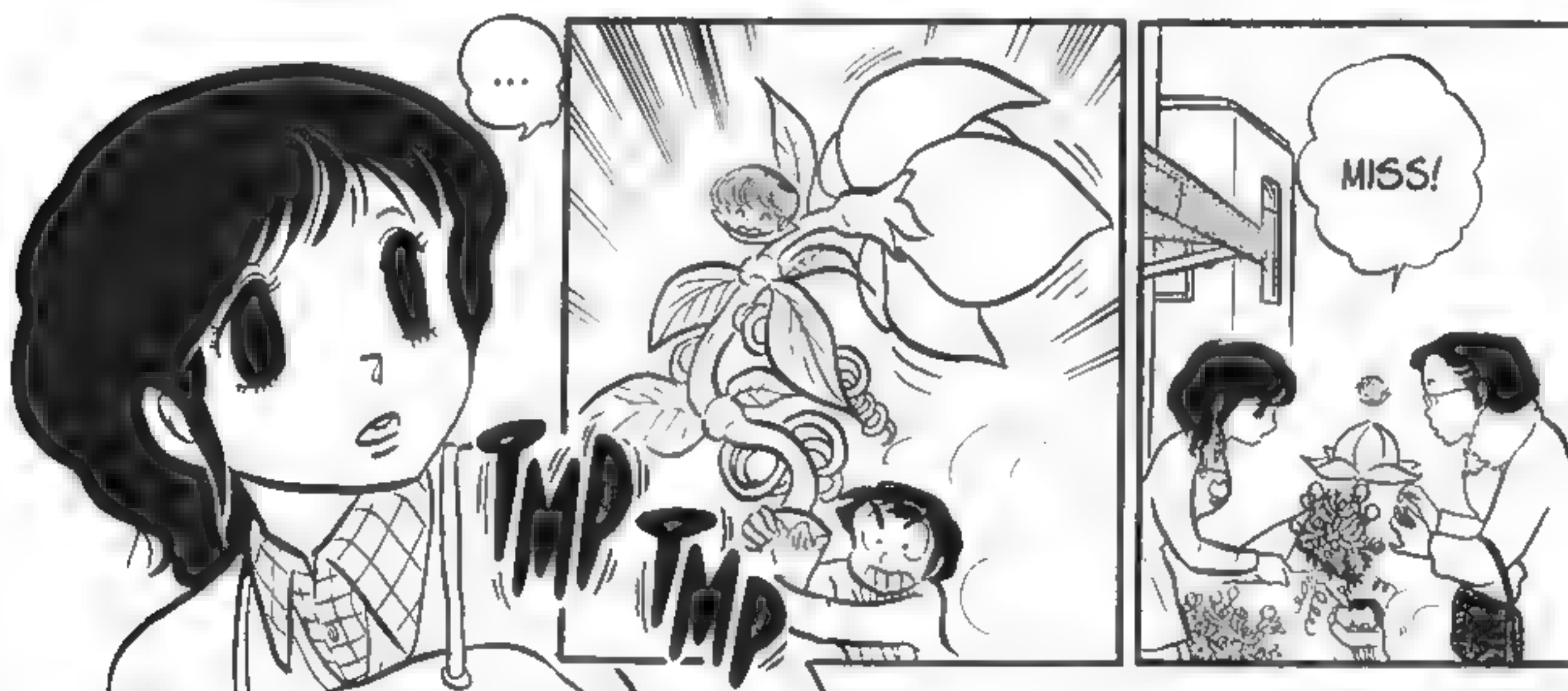
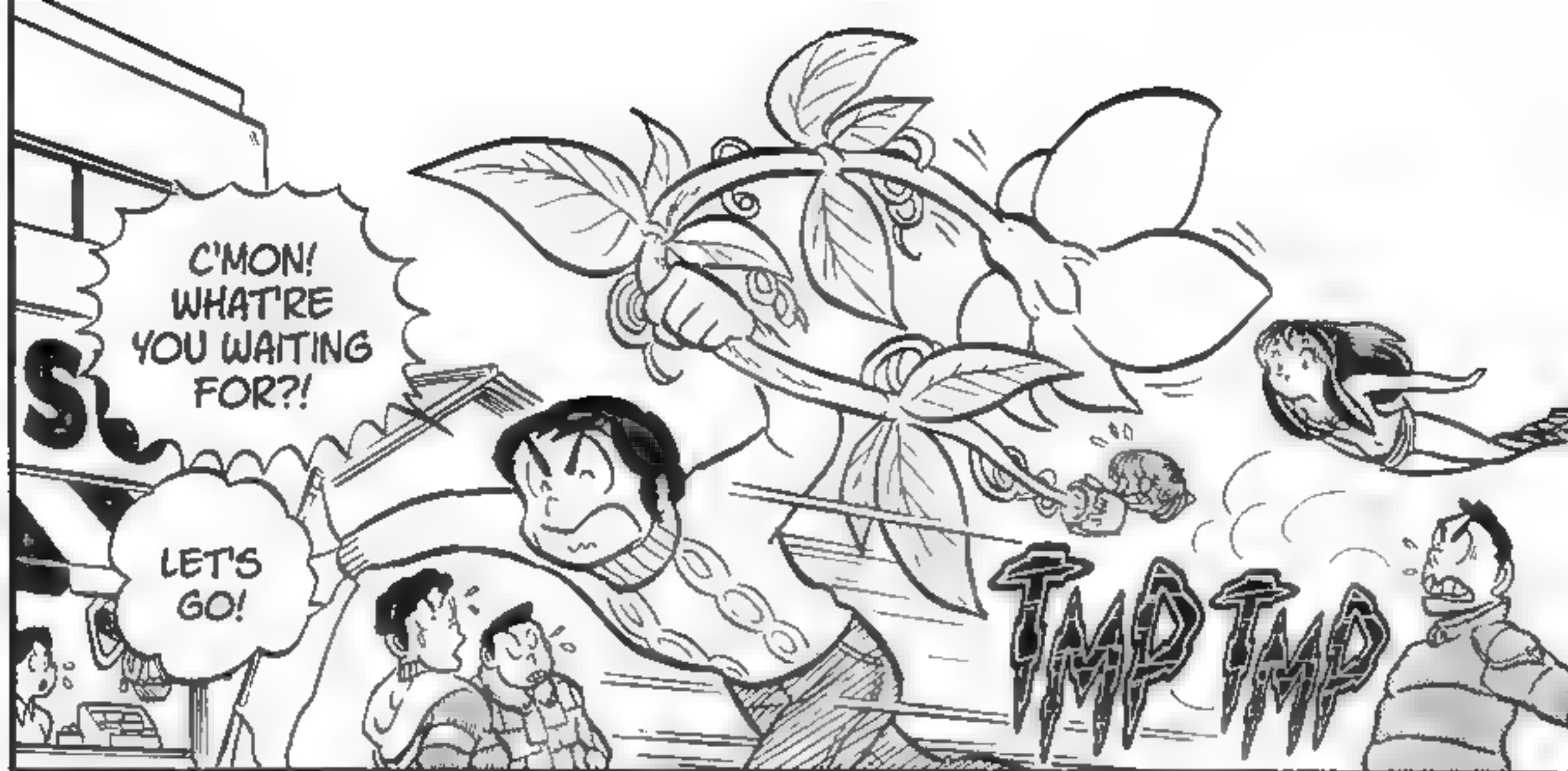
FRIENDS OF FLOWERS LTD.



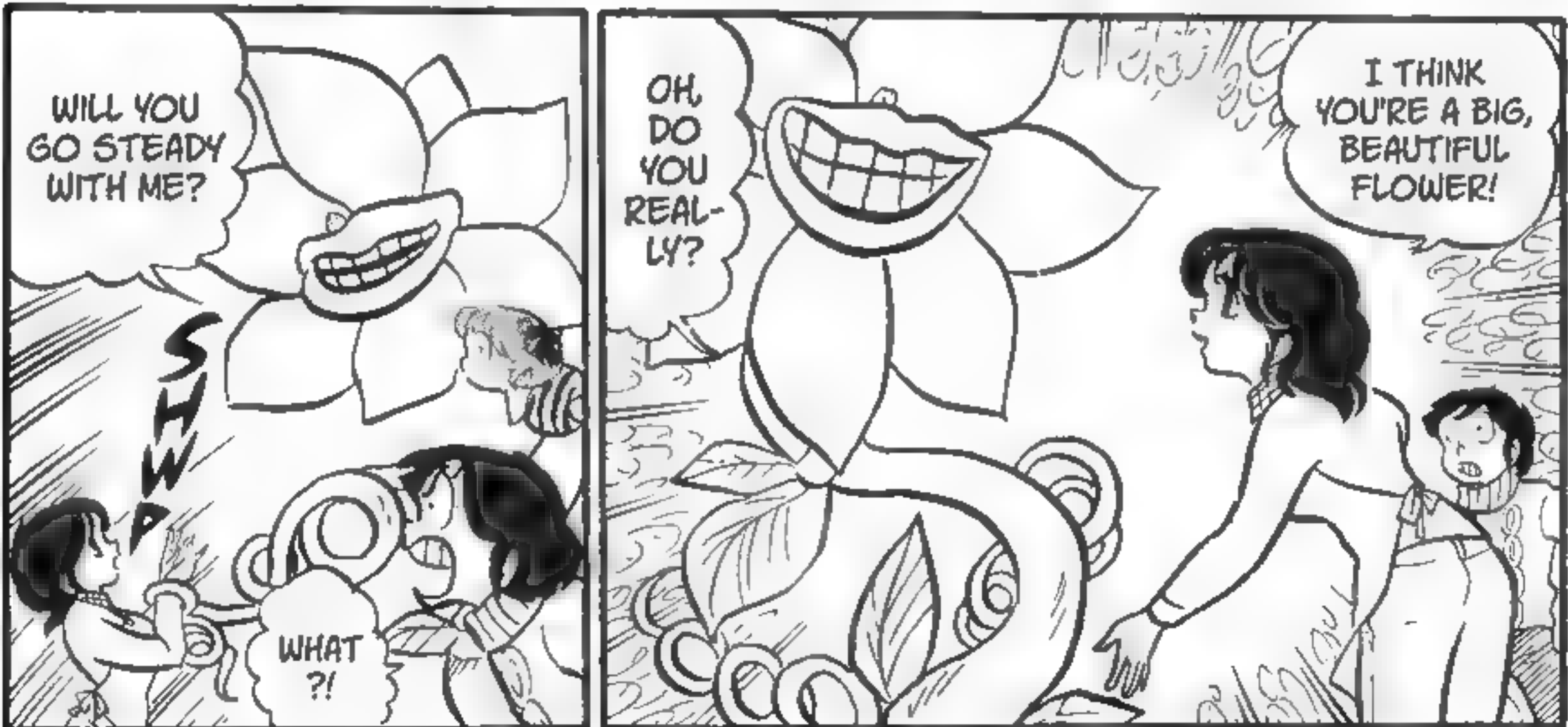
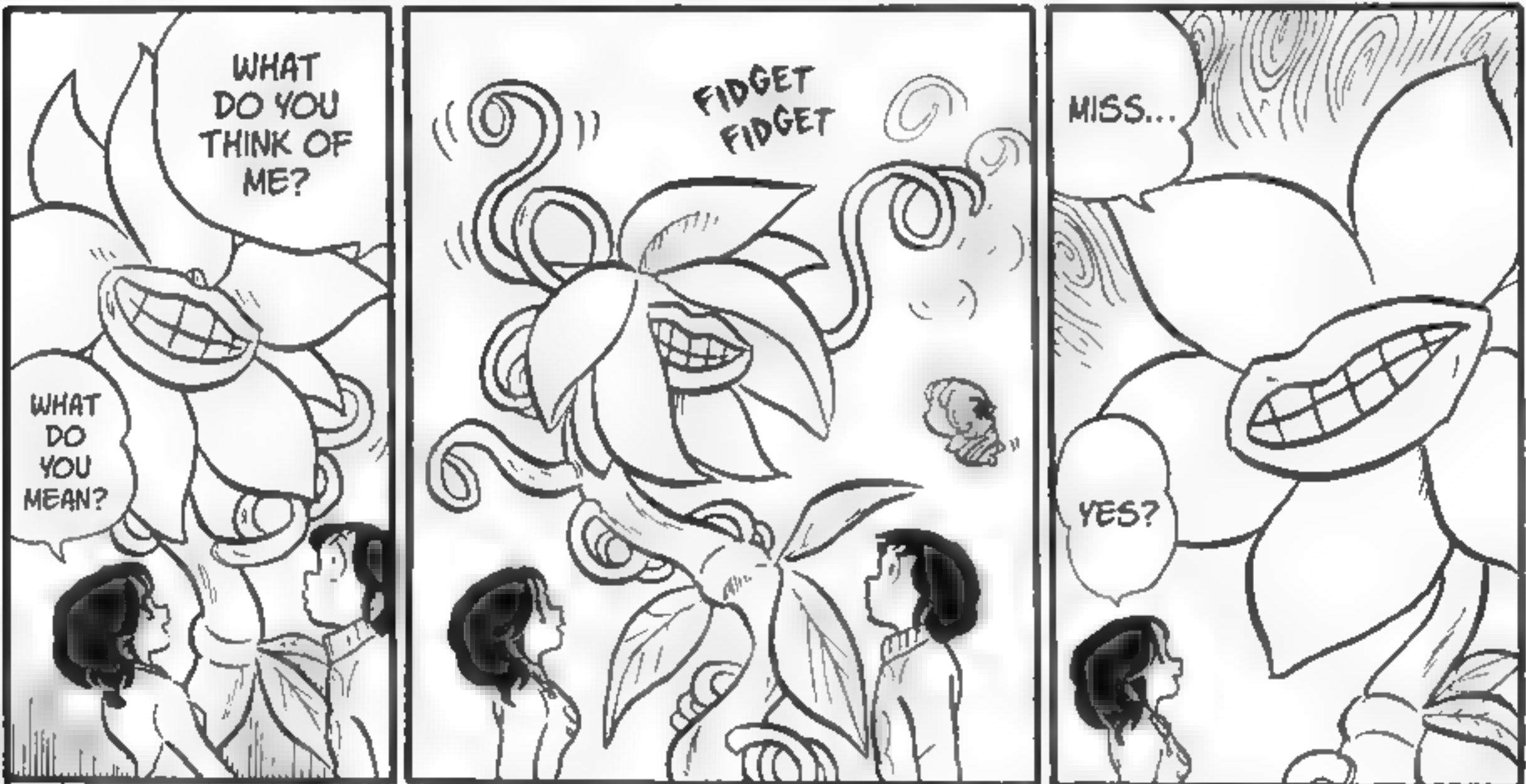
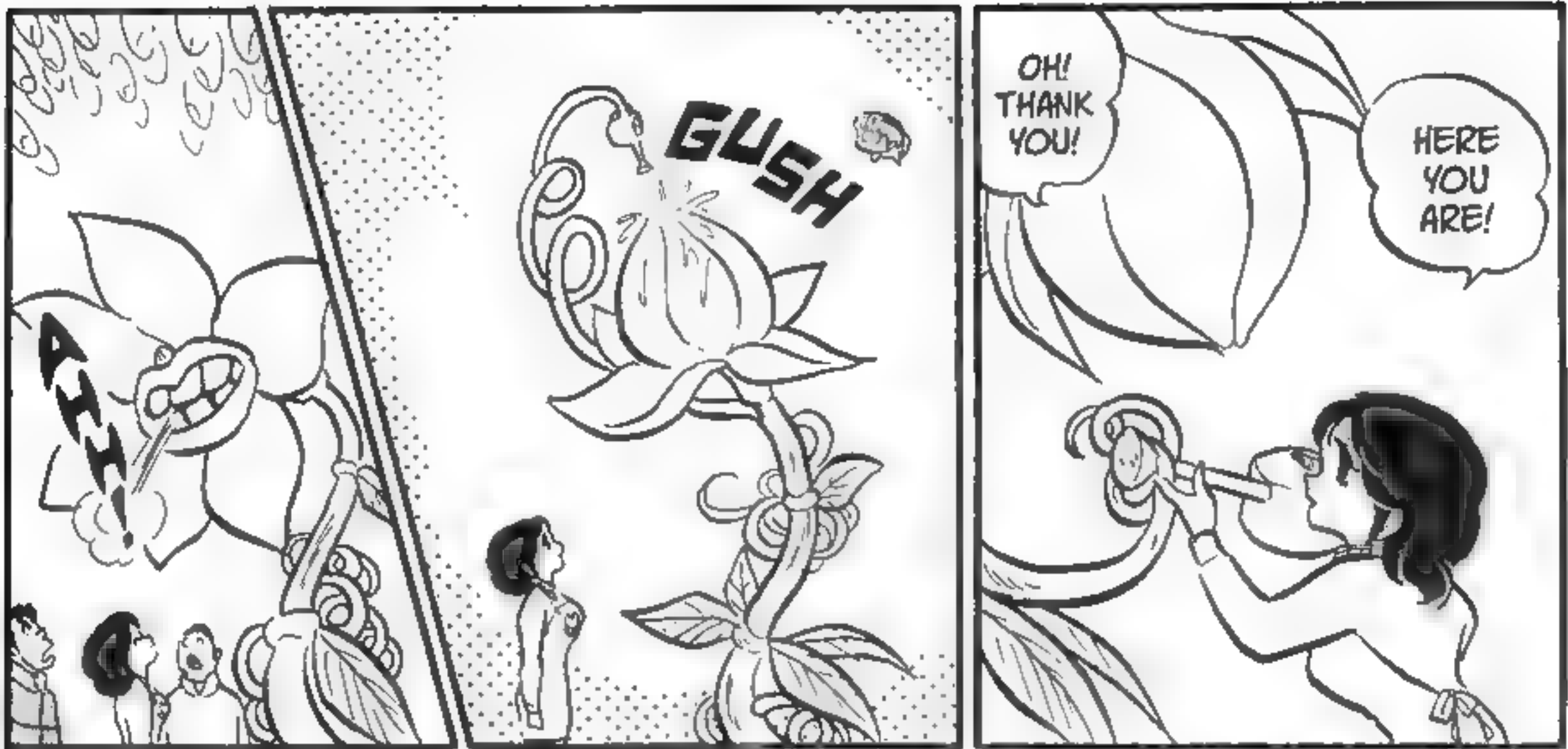


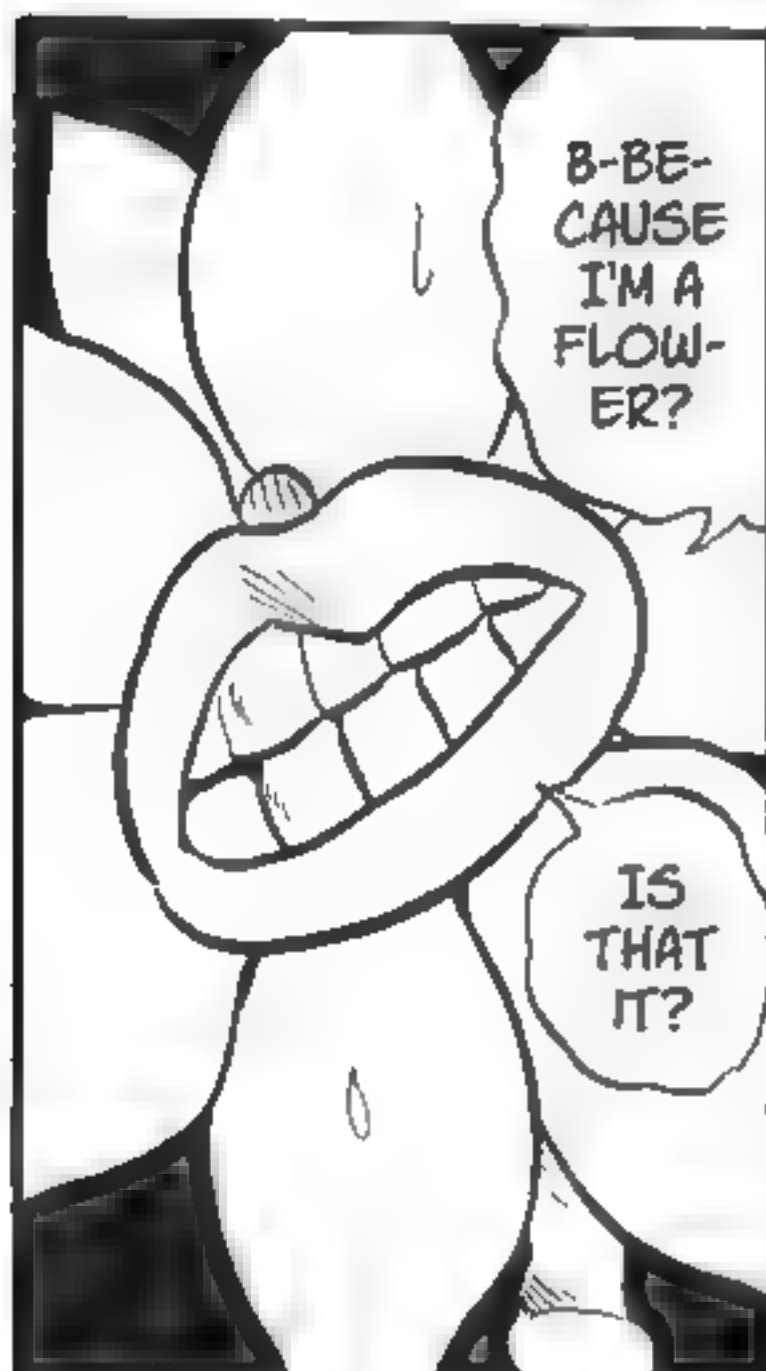
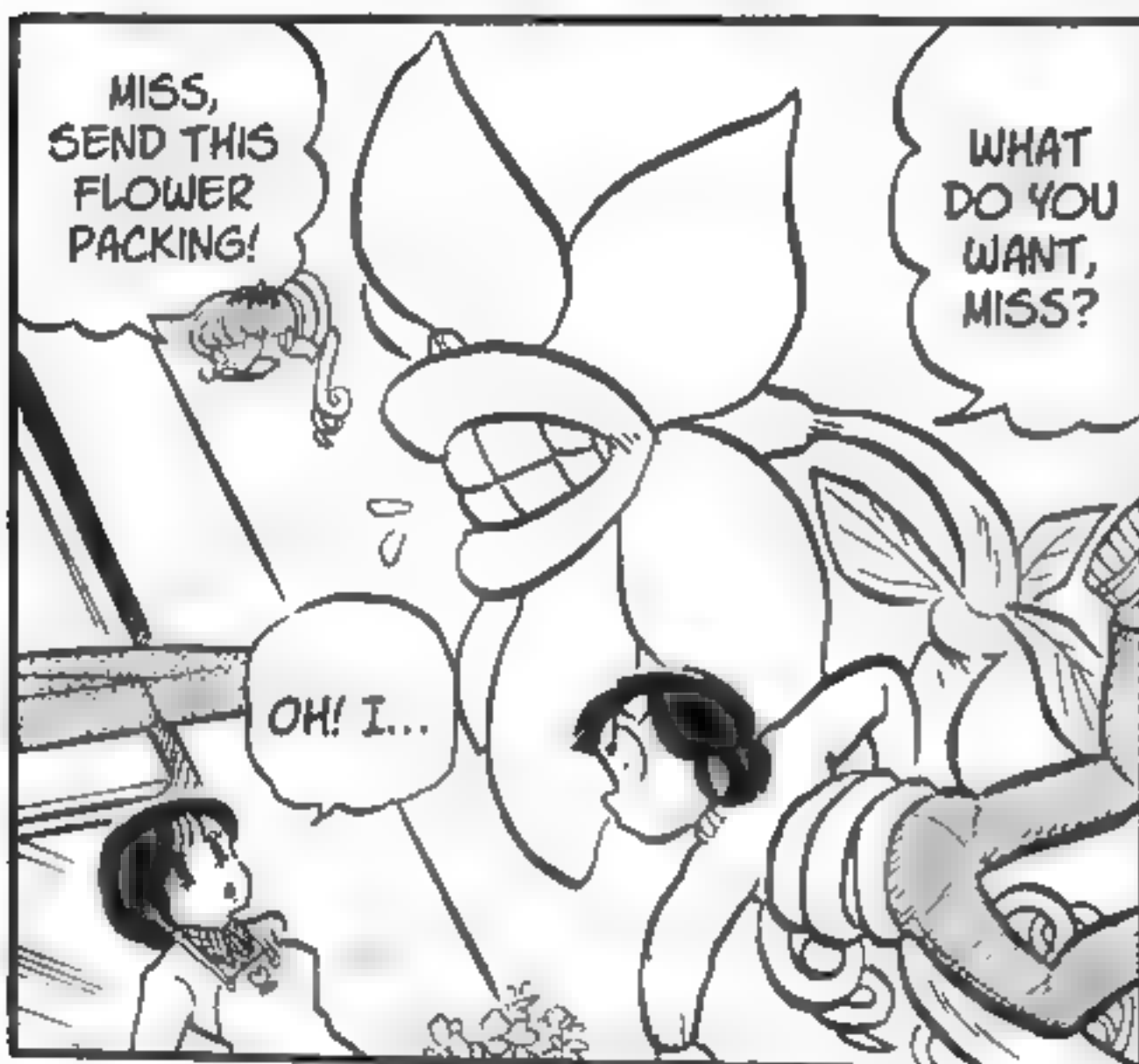
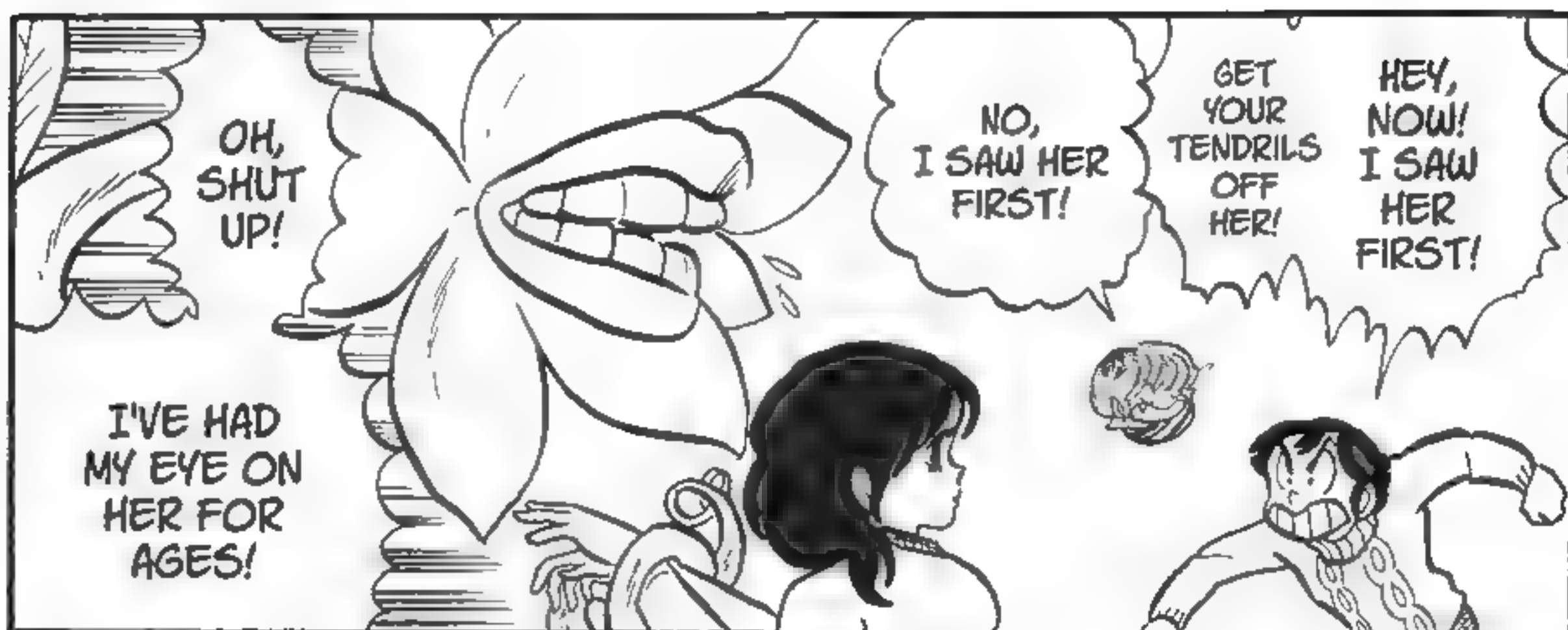


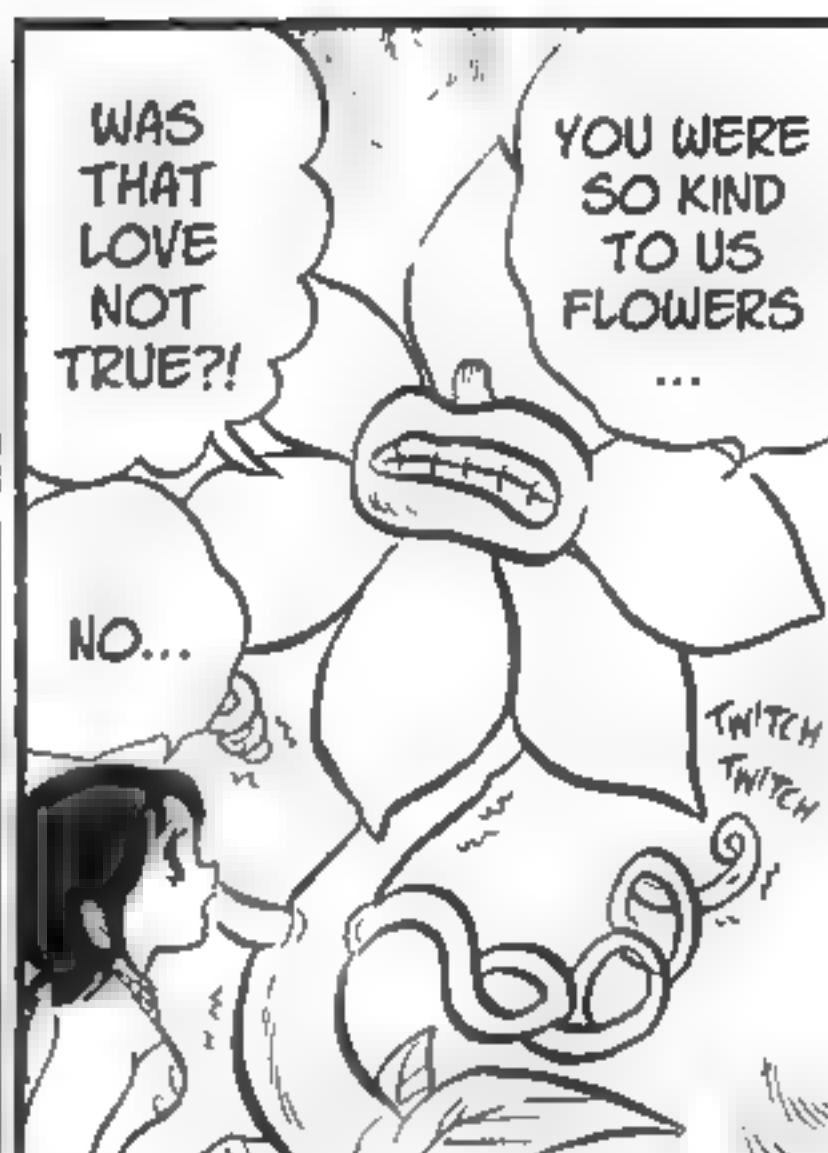
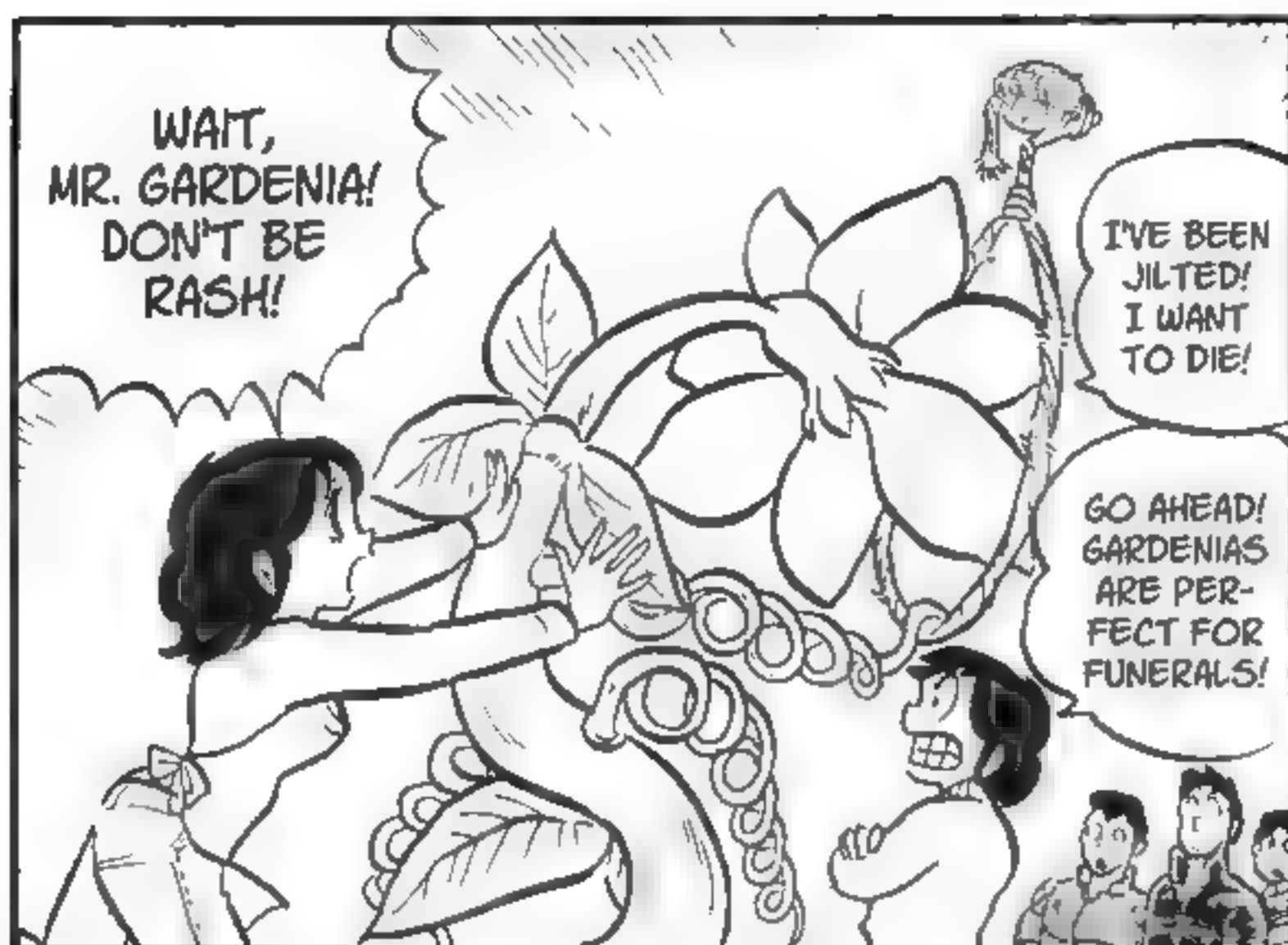


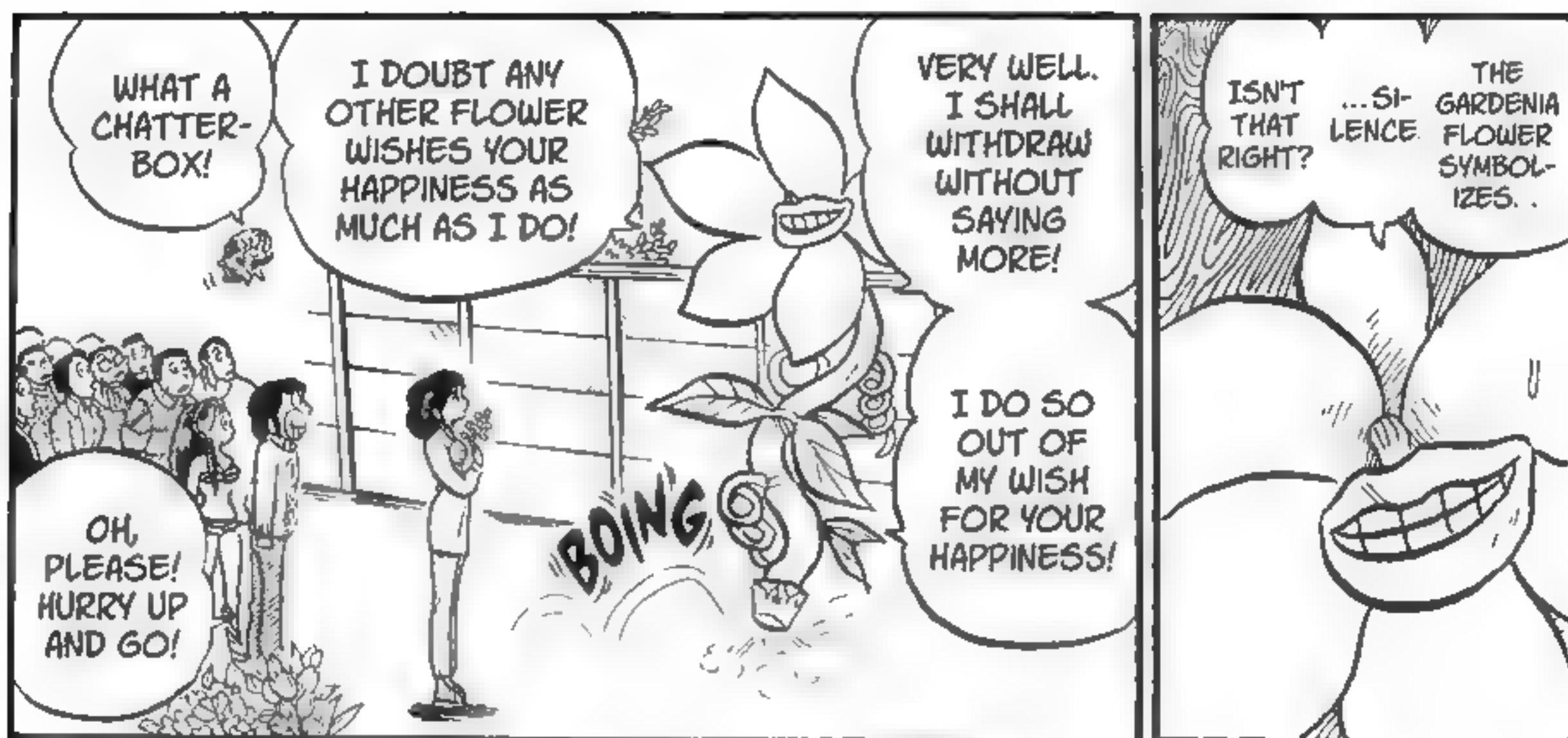




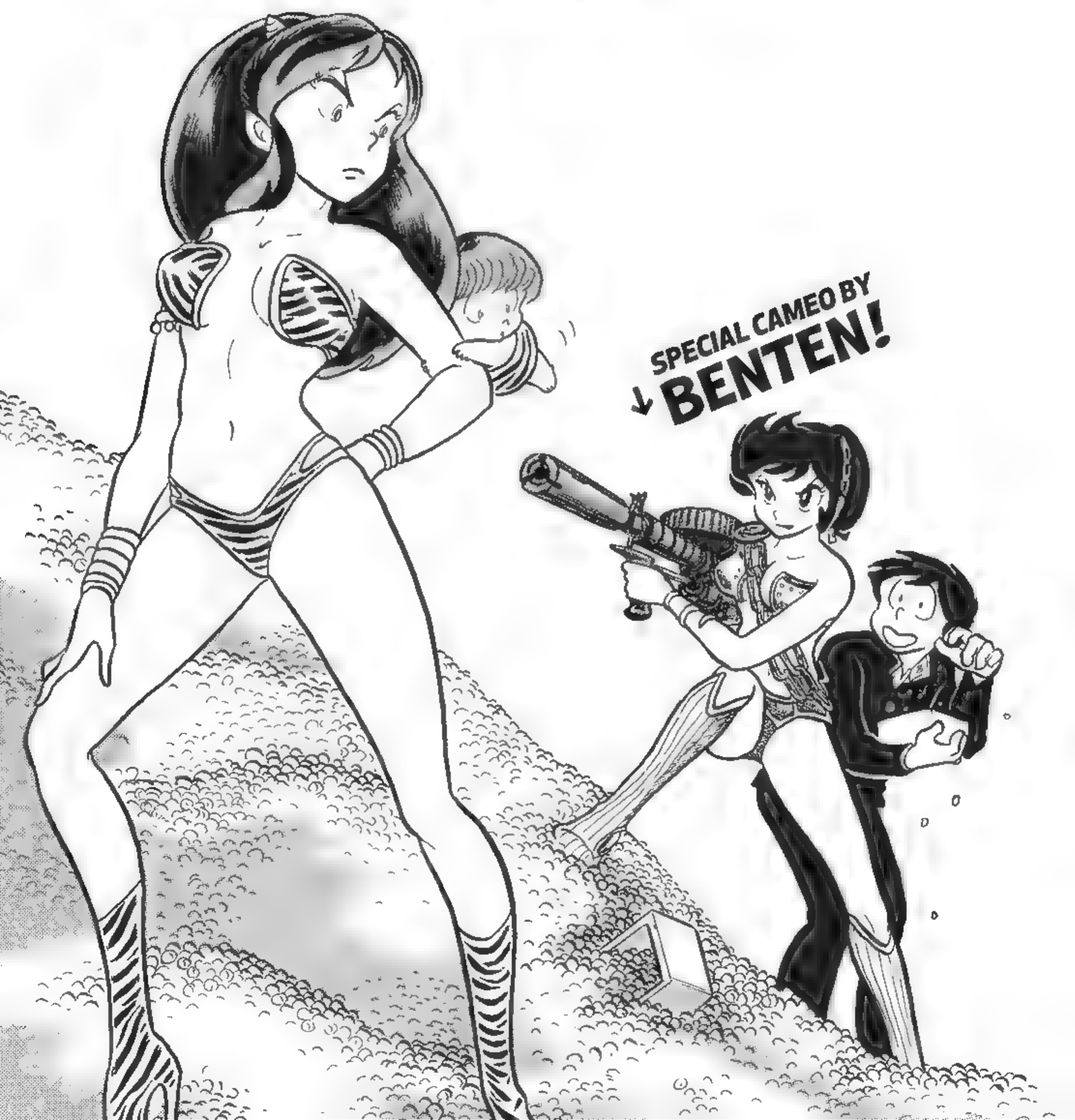




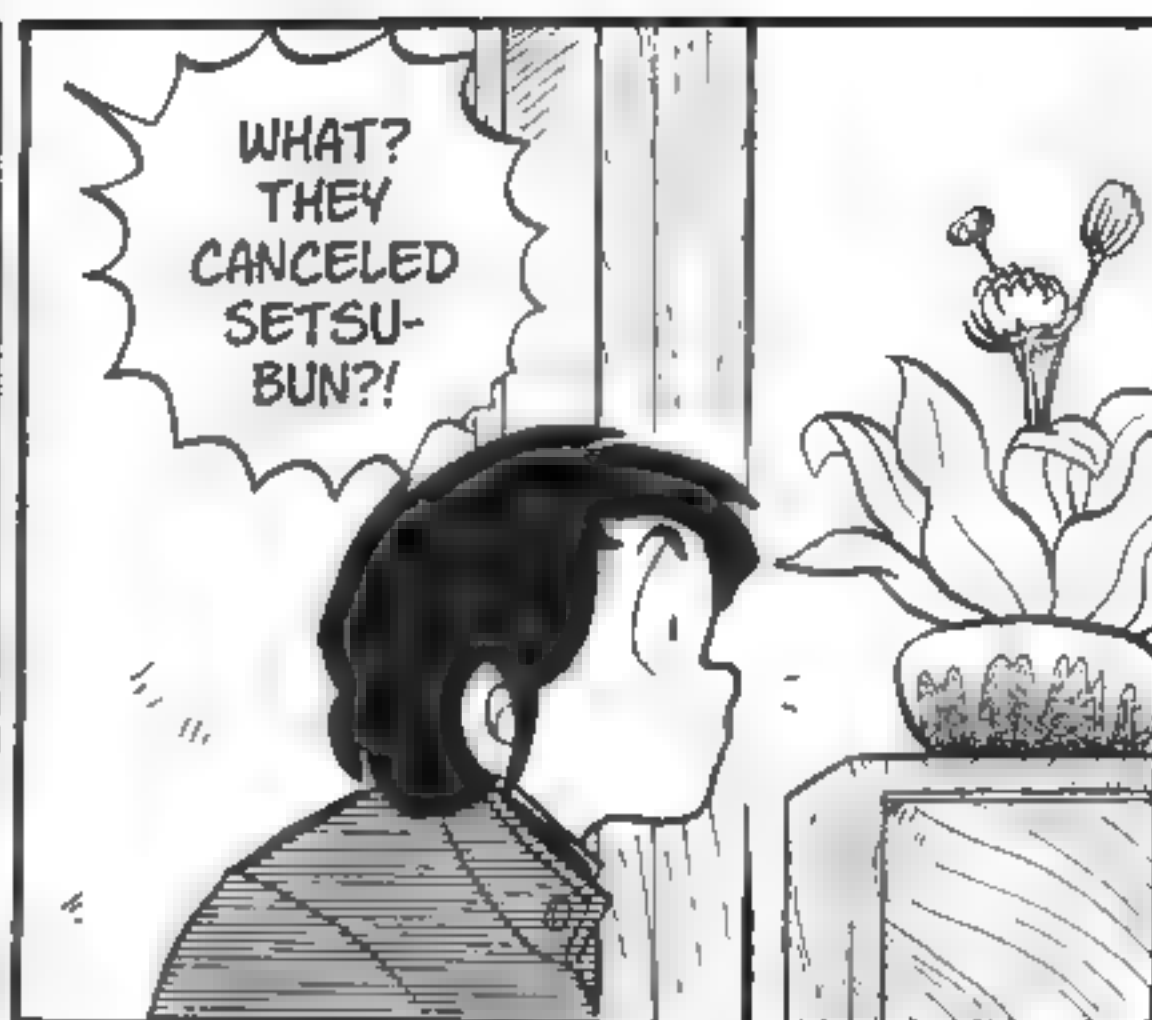


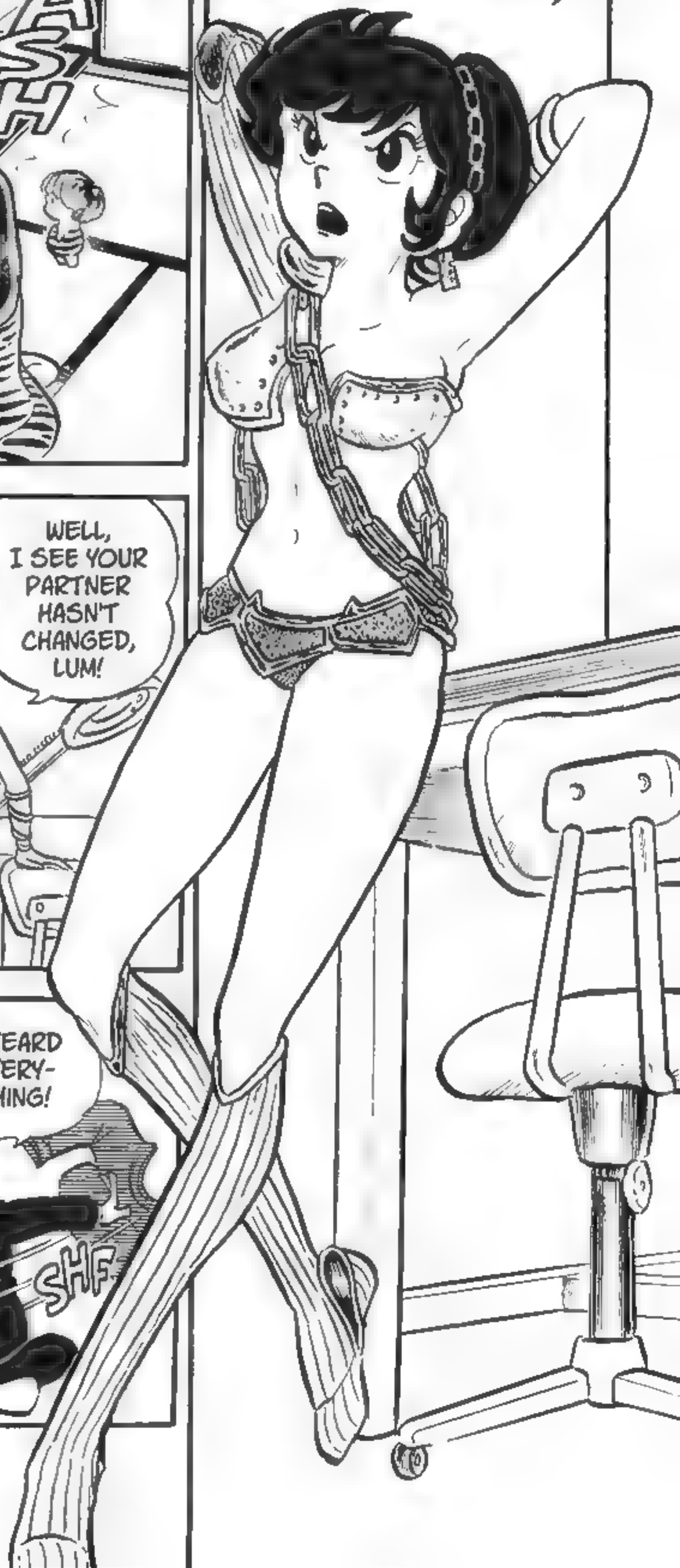


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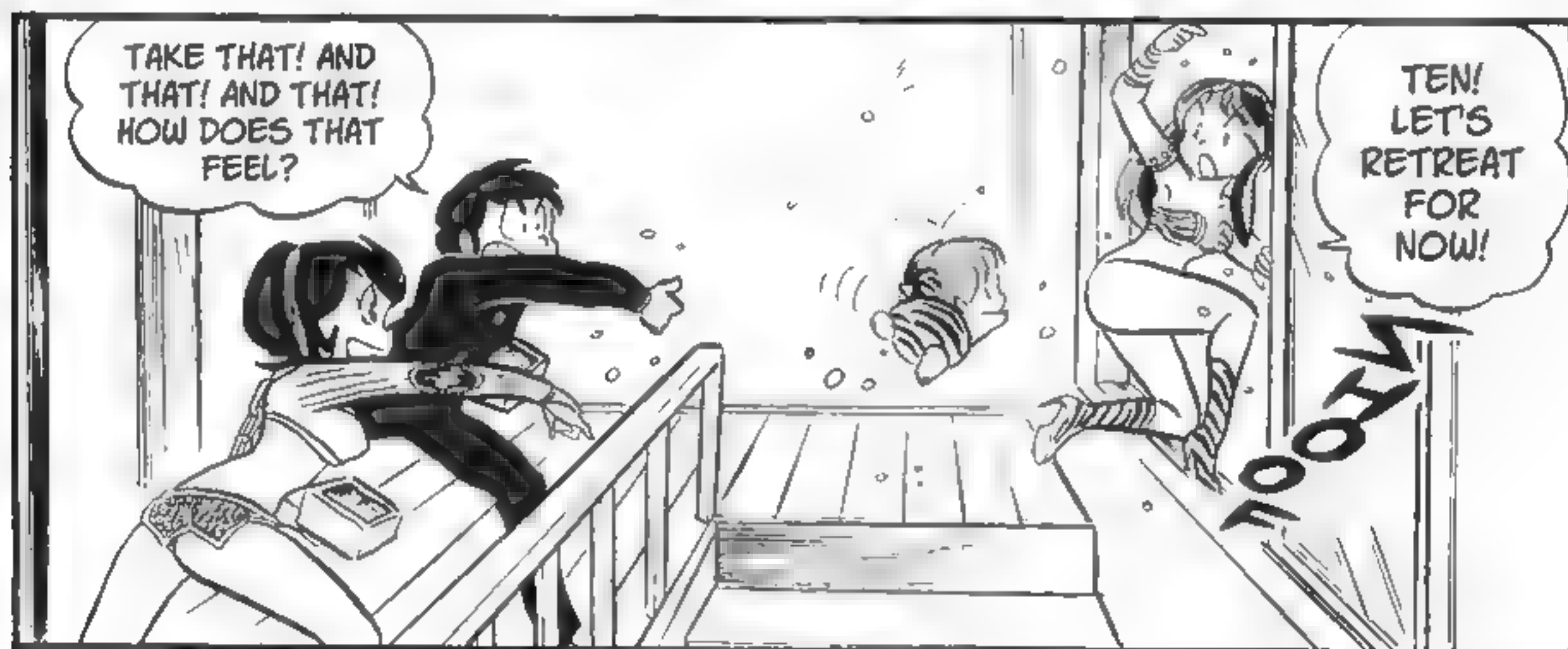


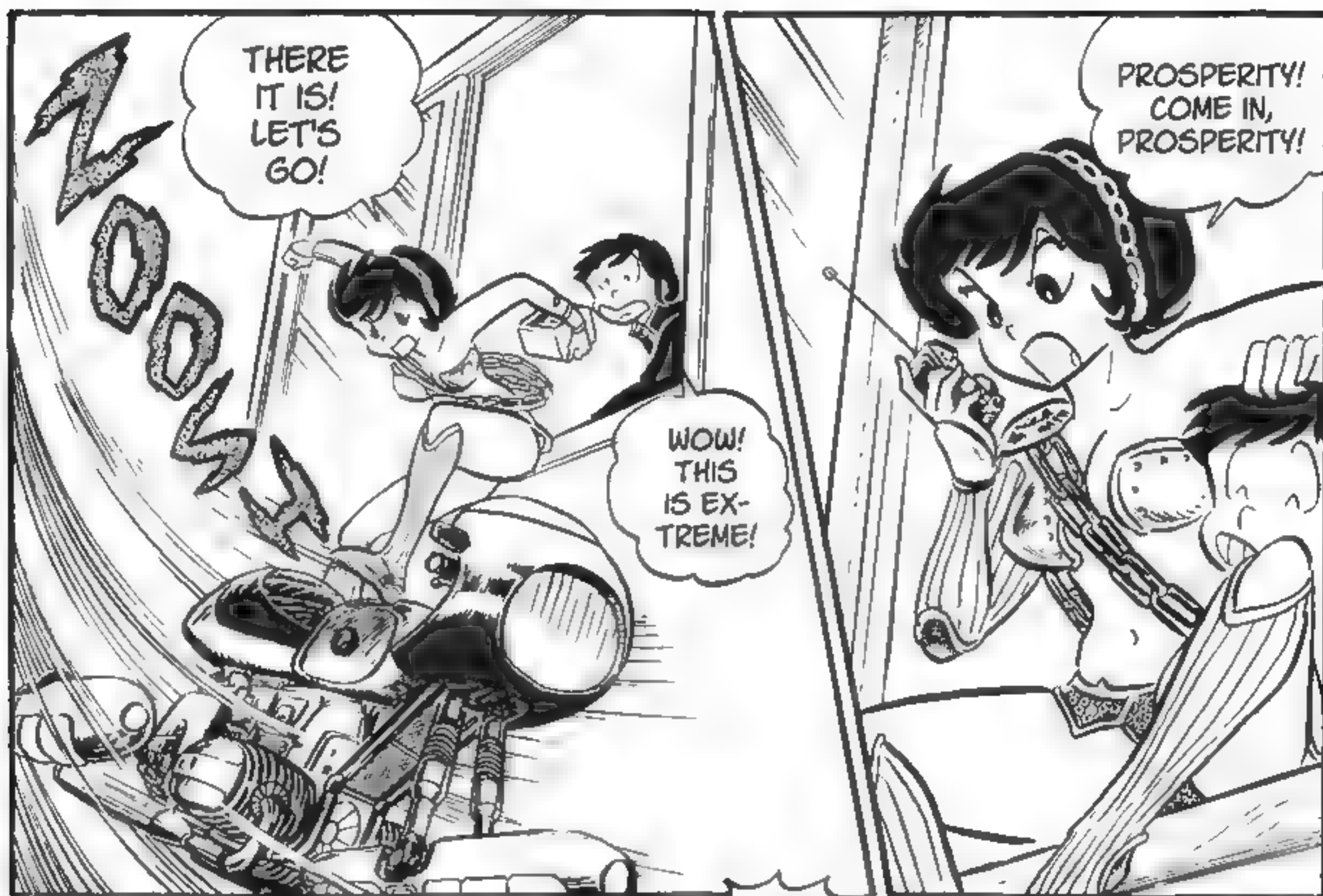




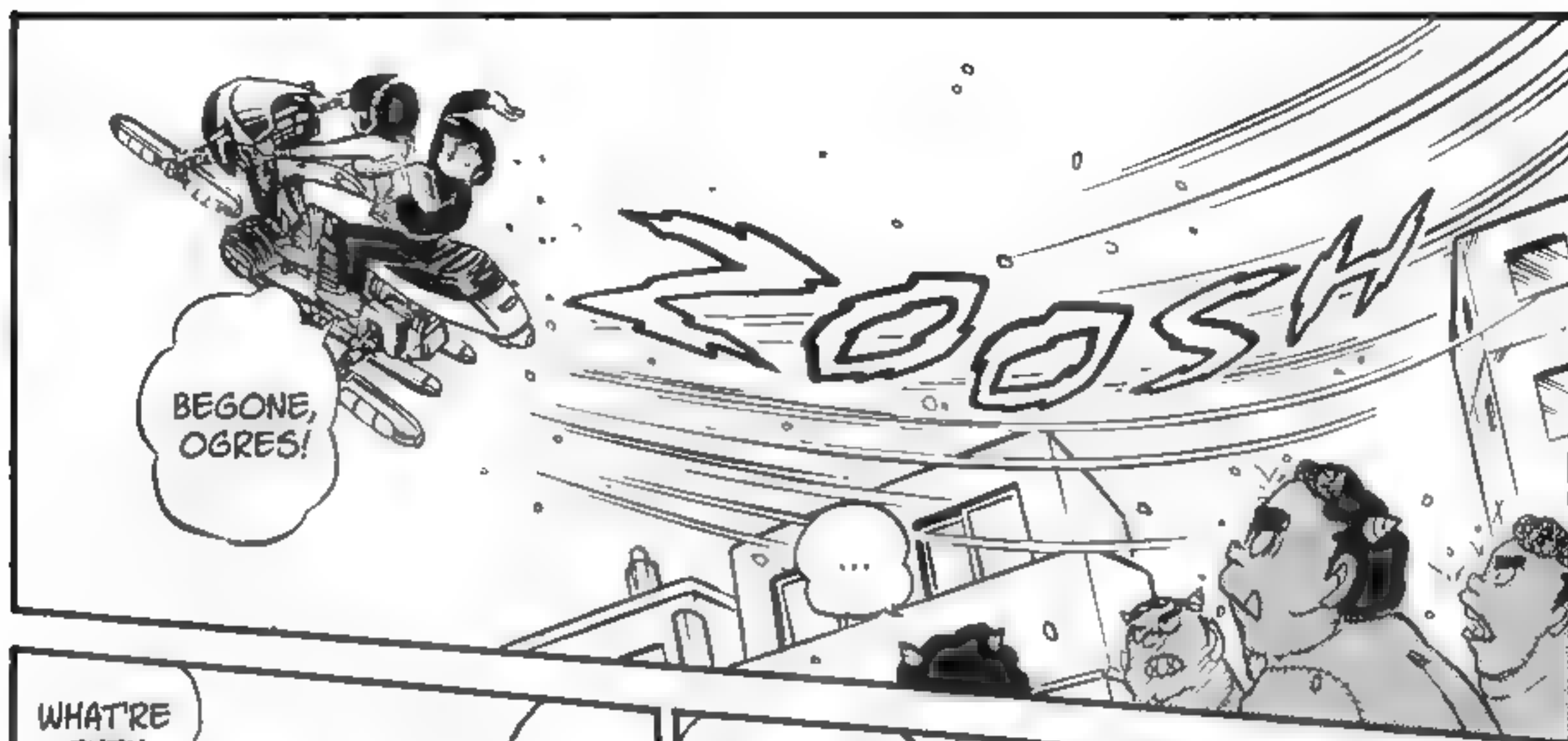


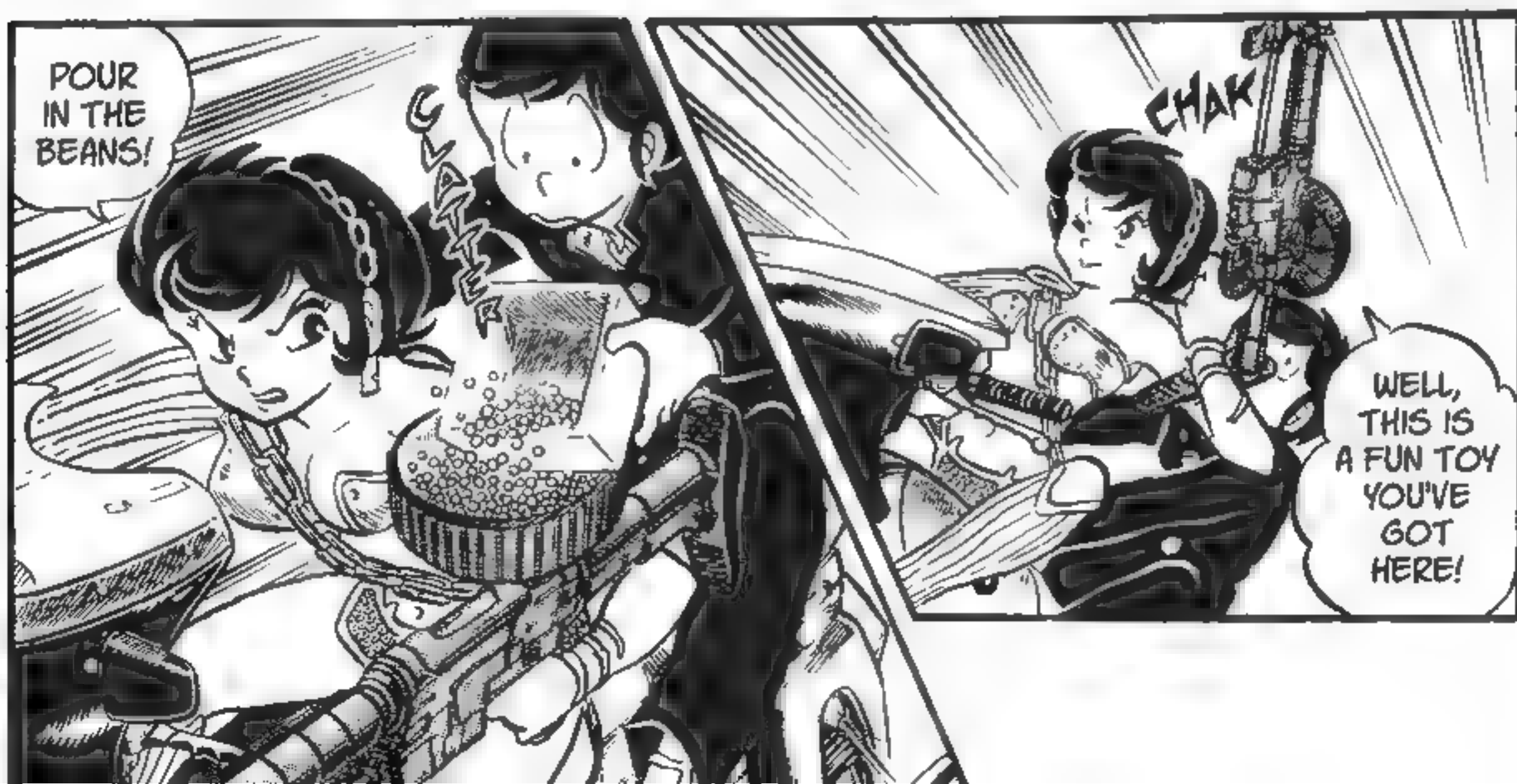


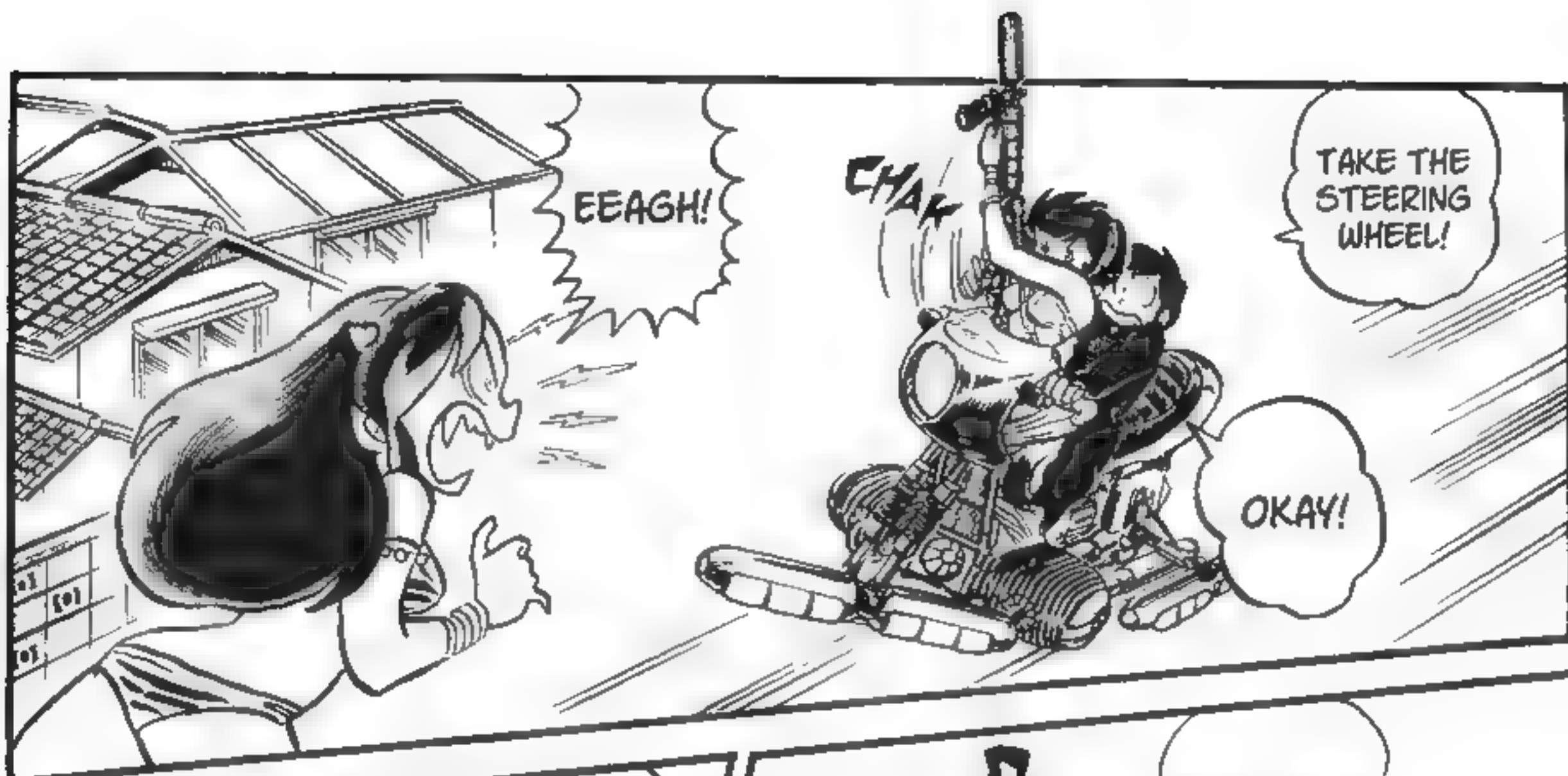


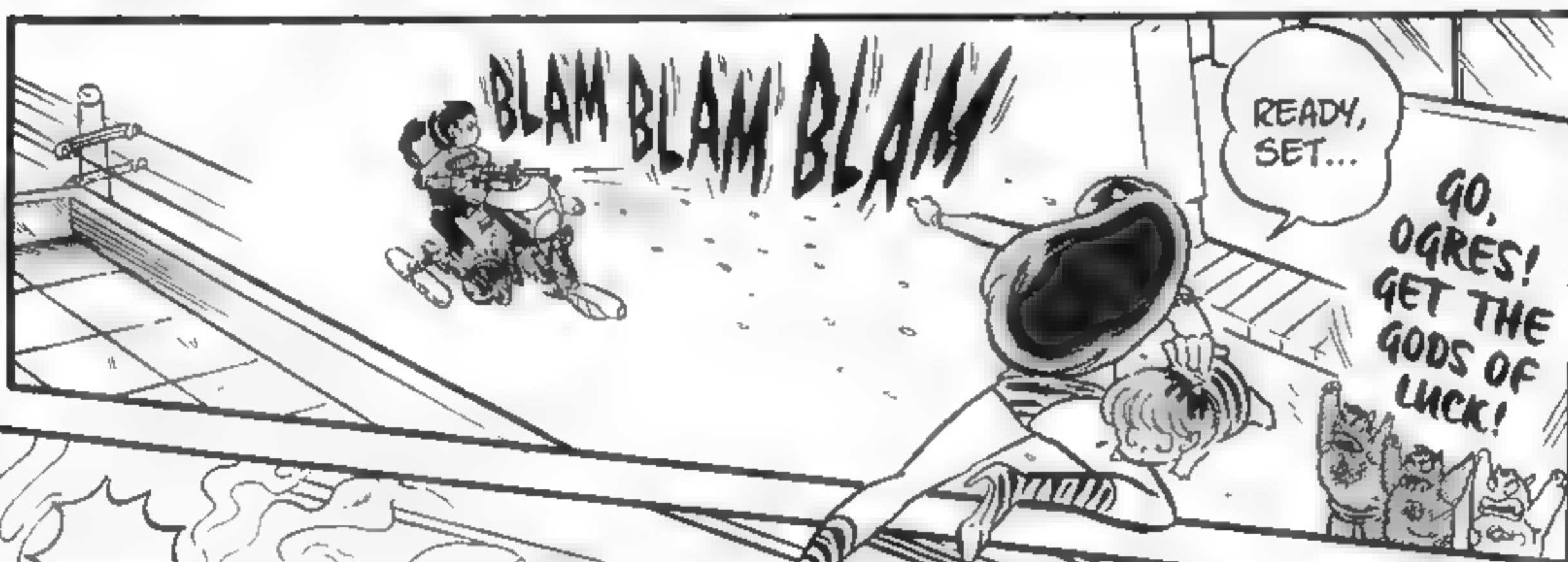


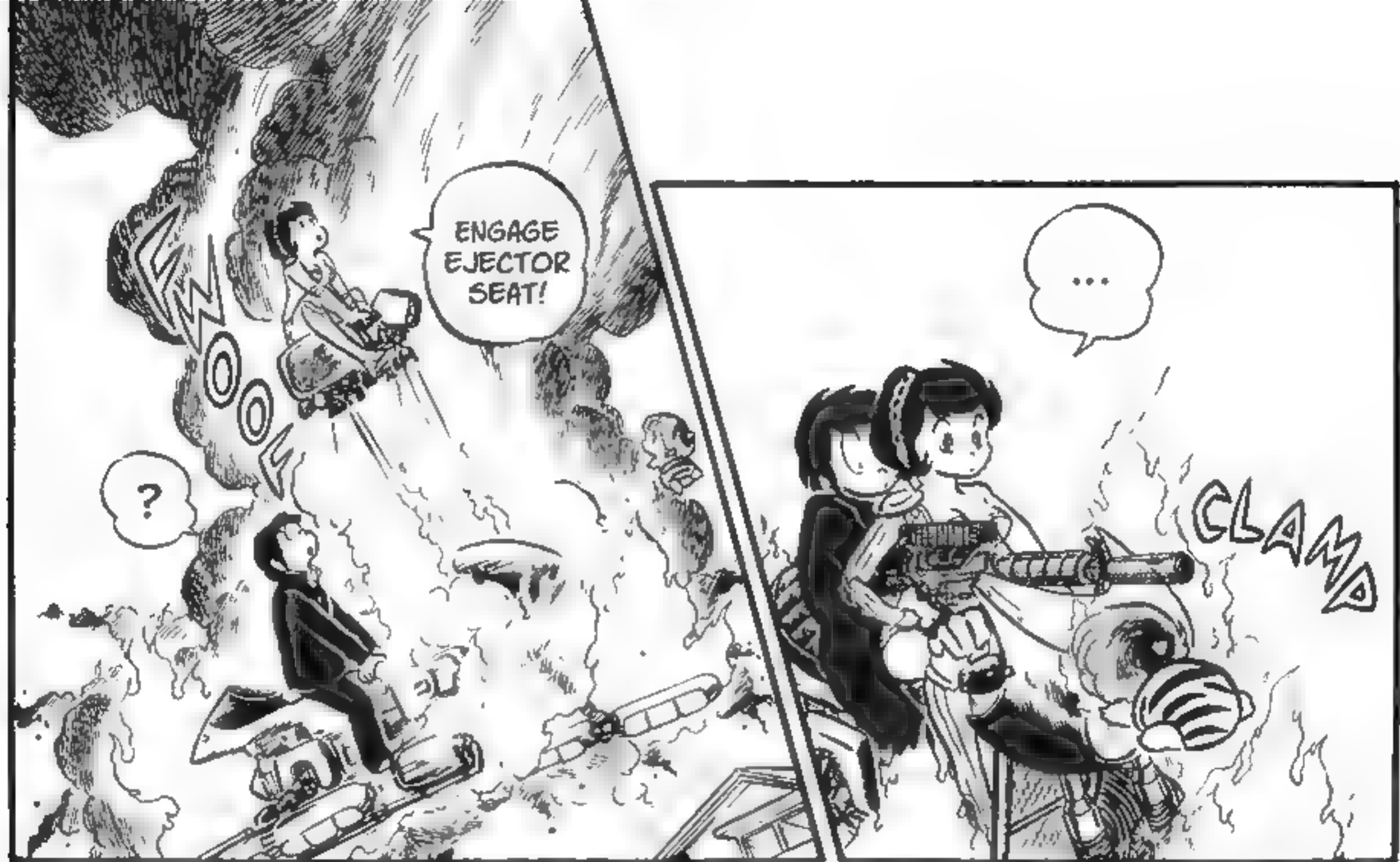




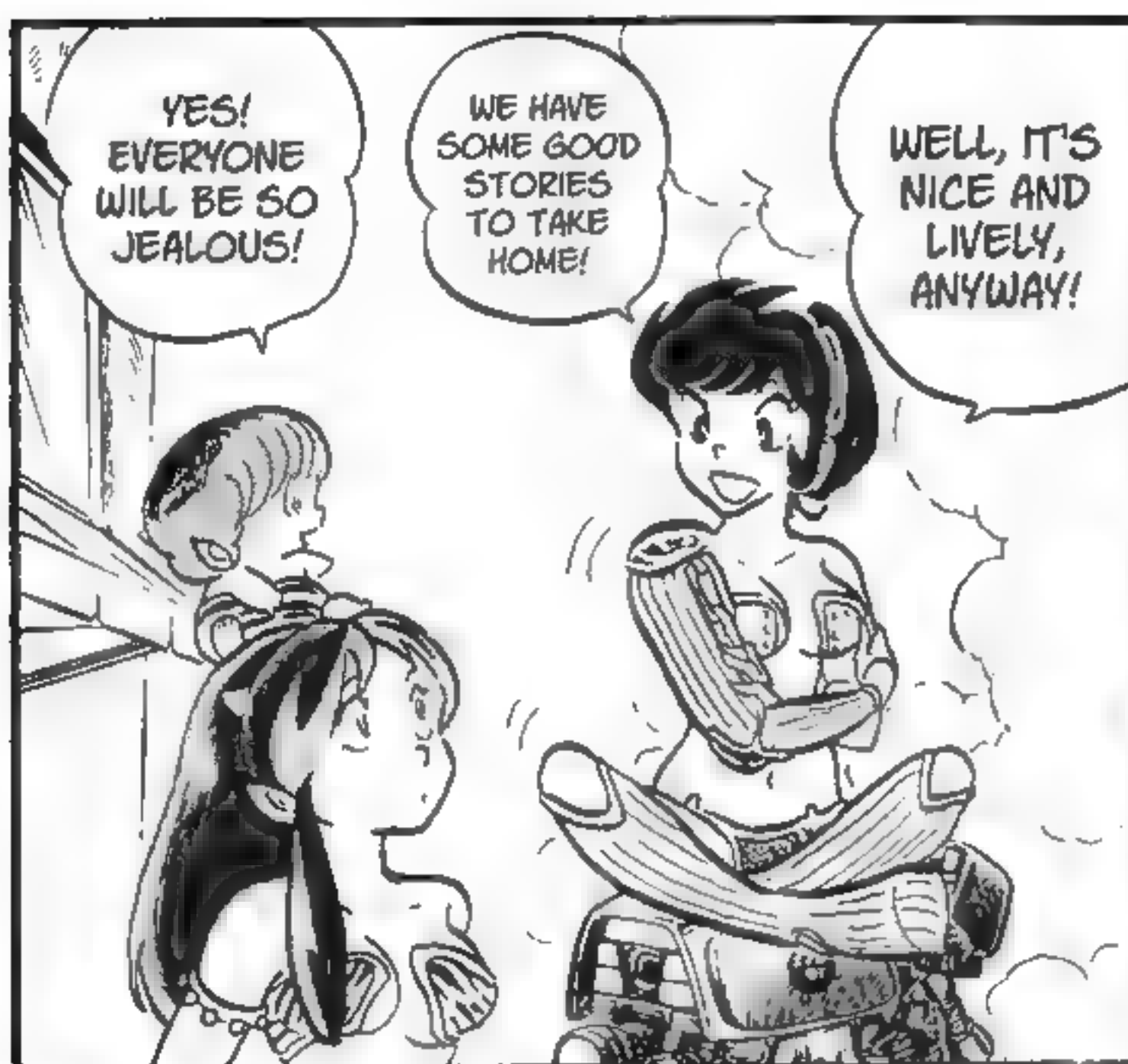












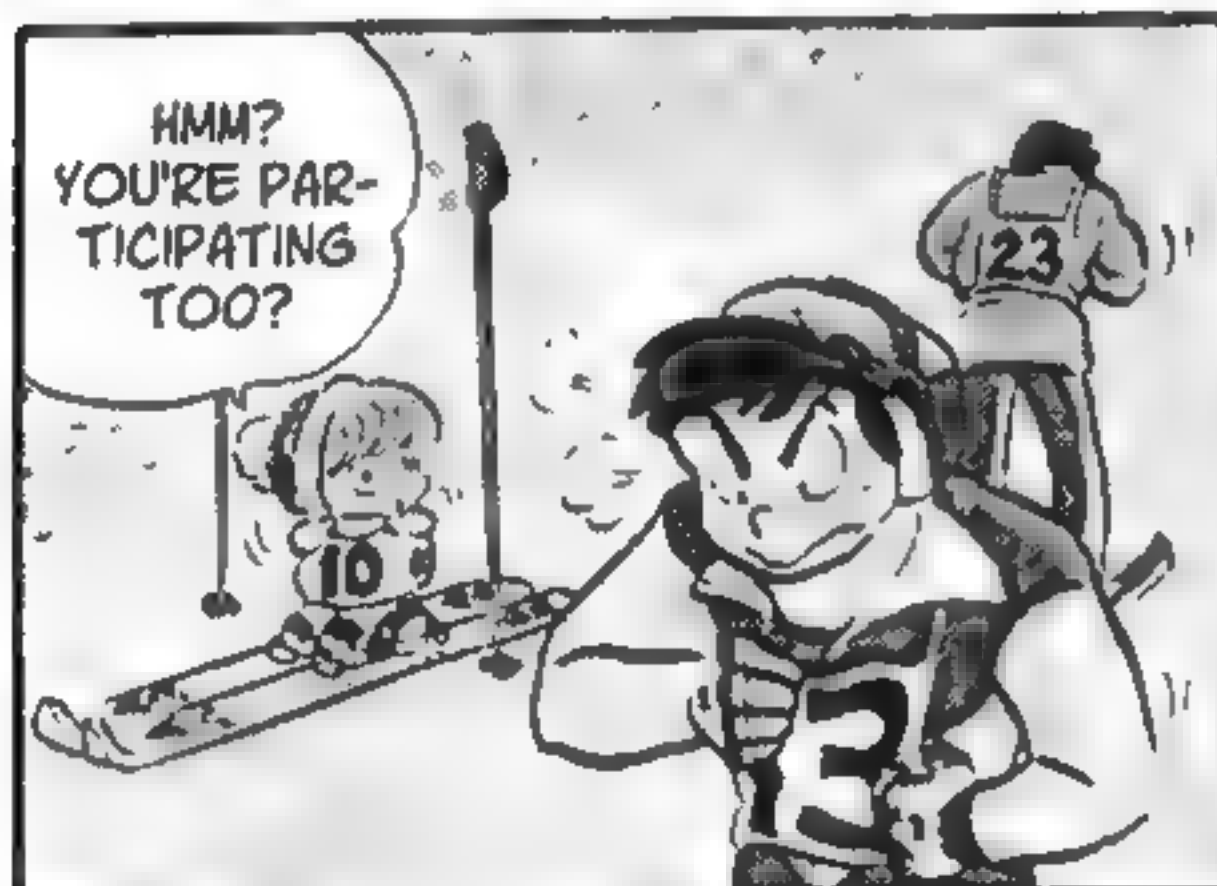
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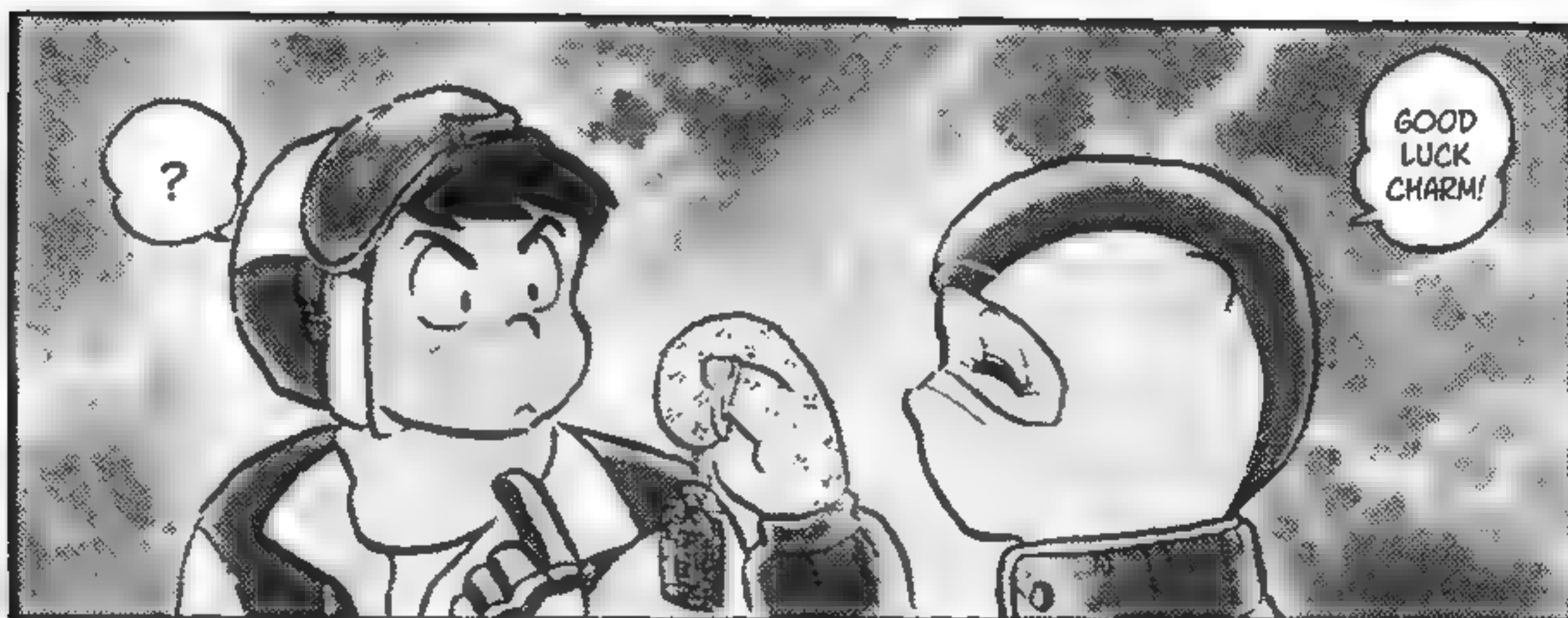






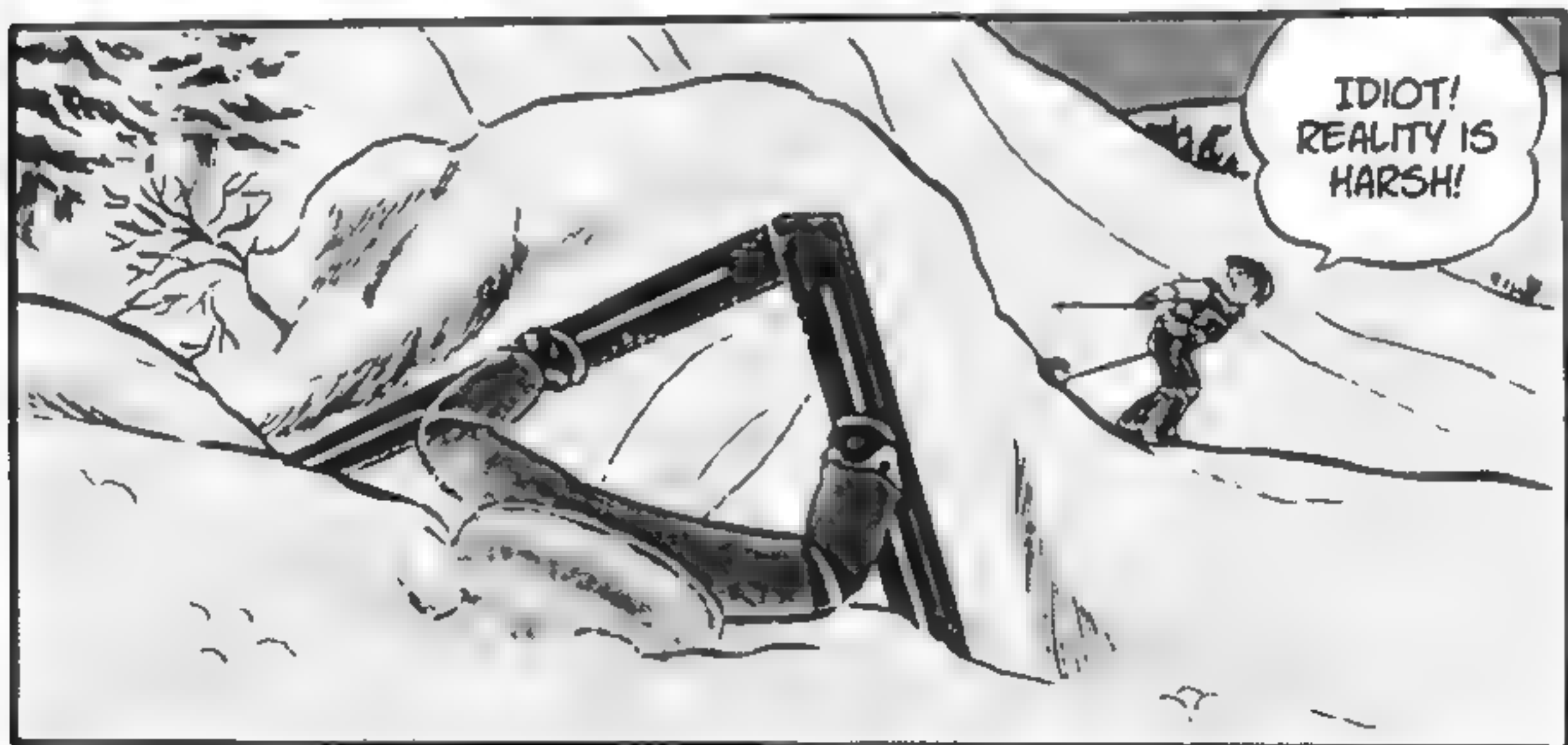




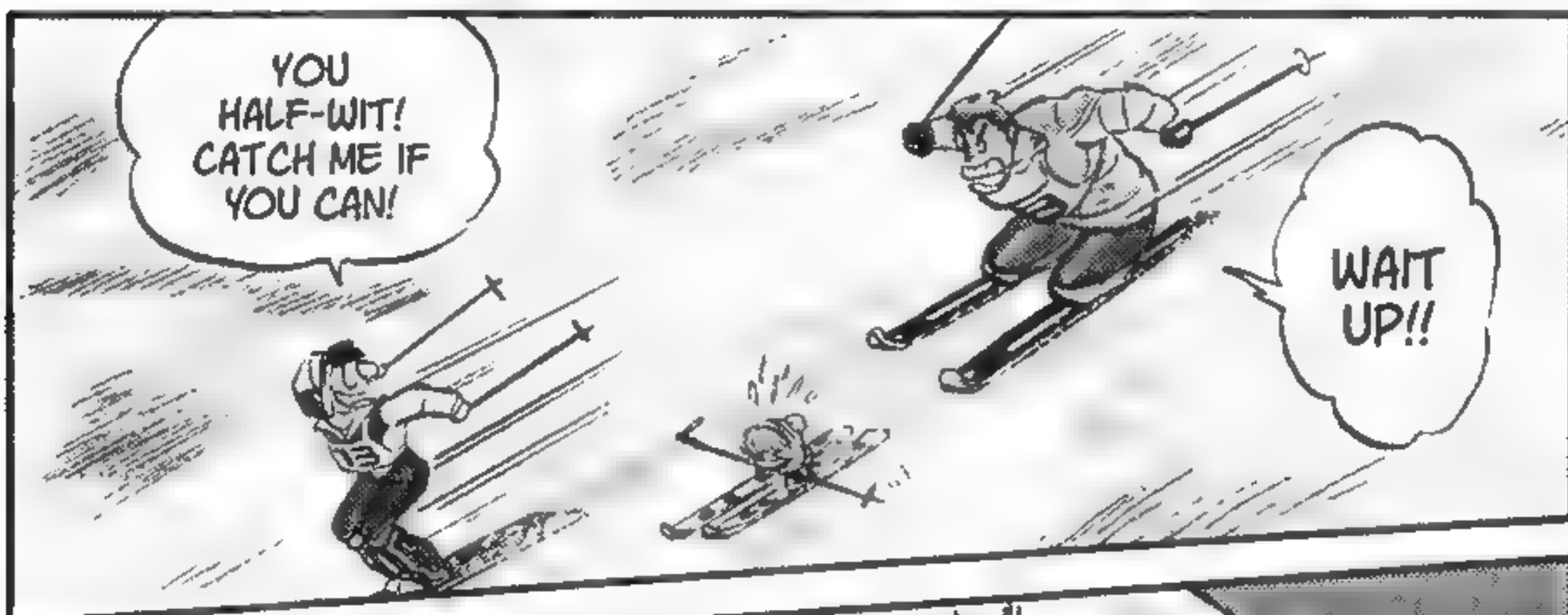


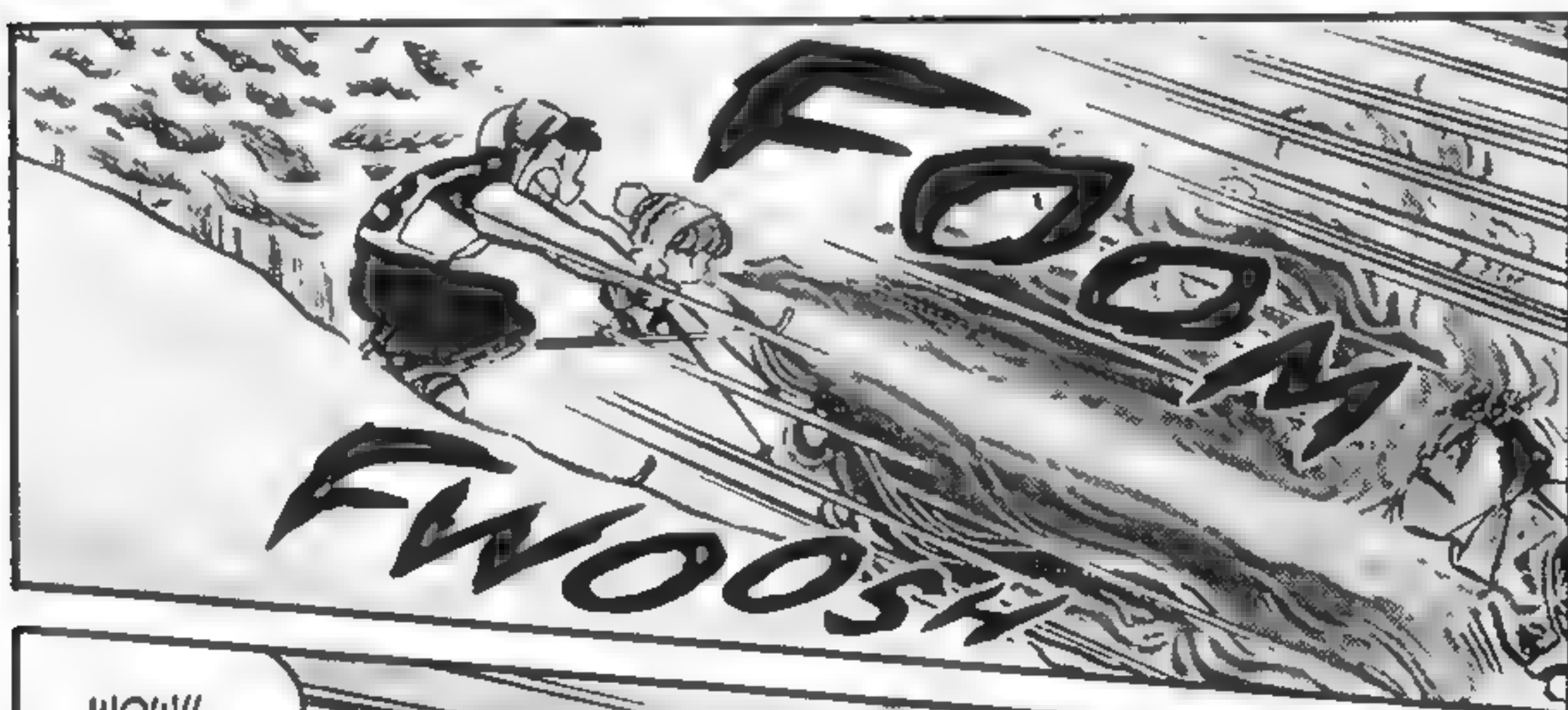


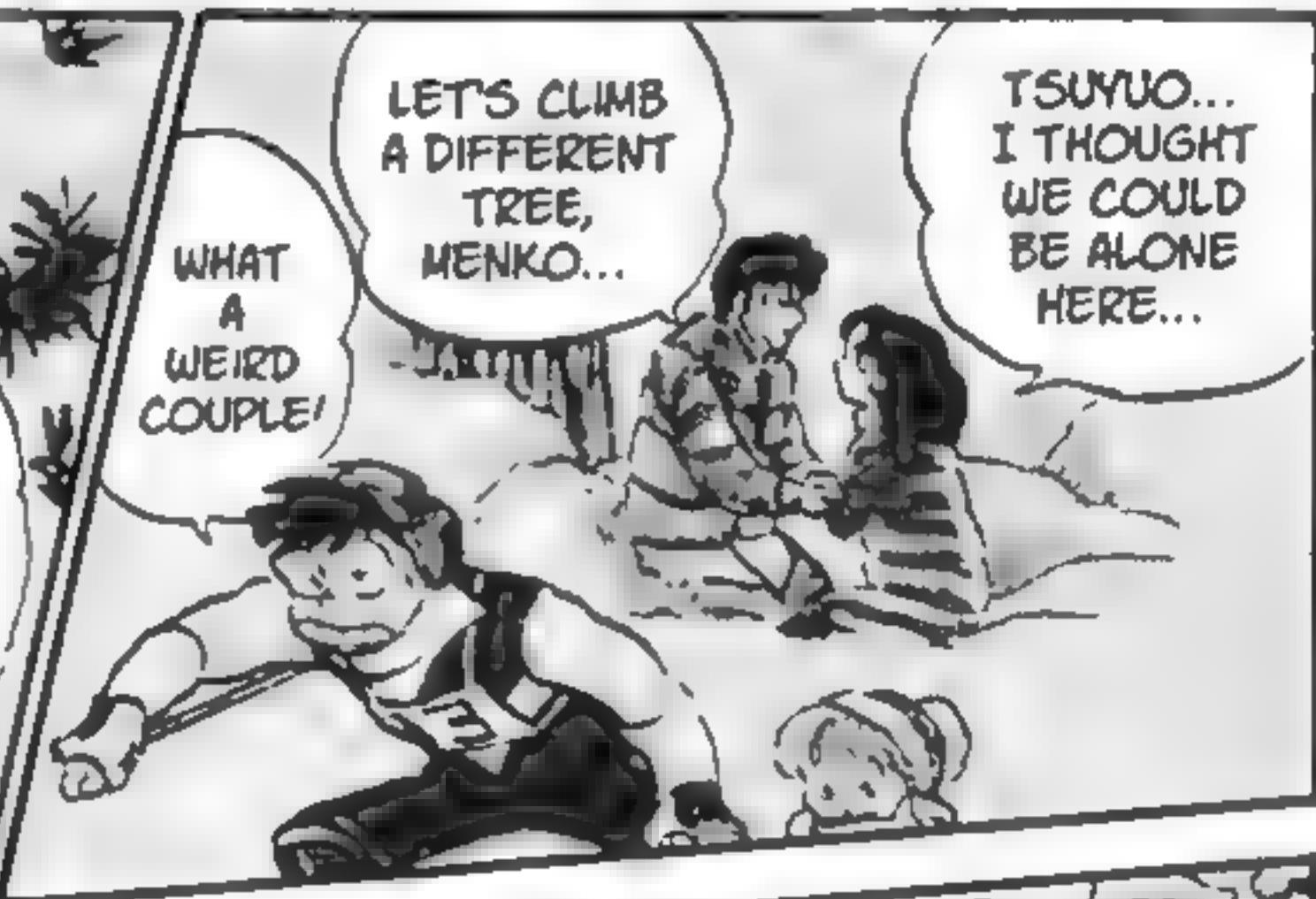














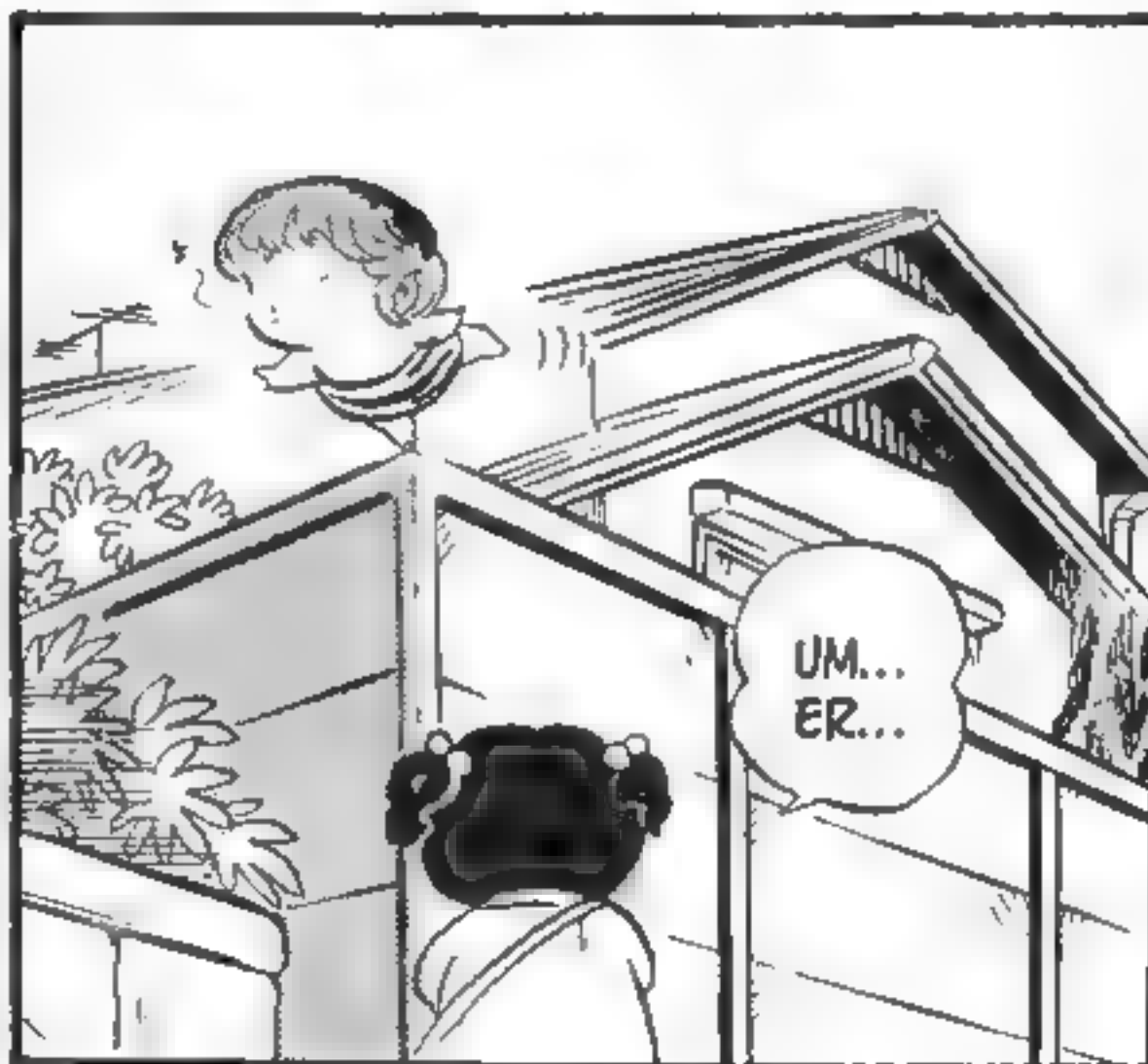
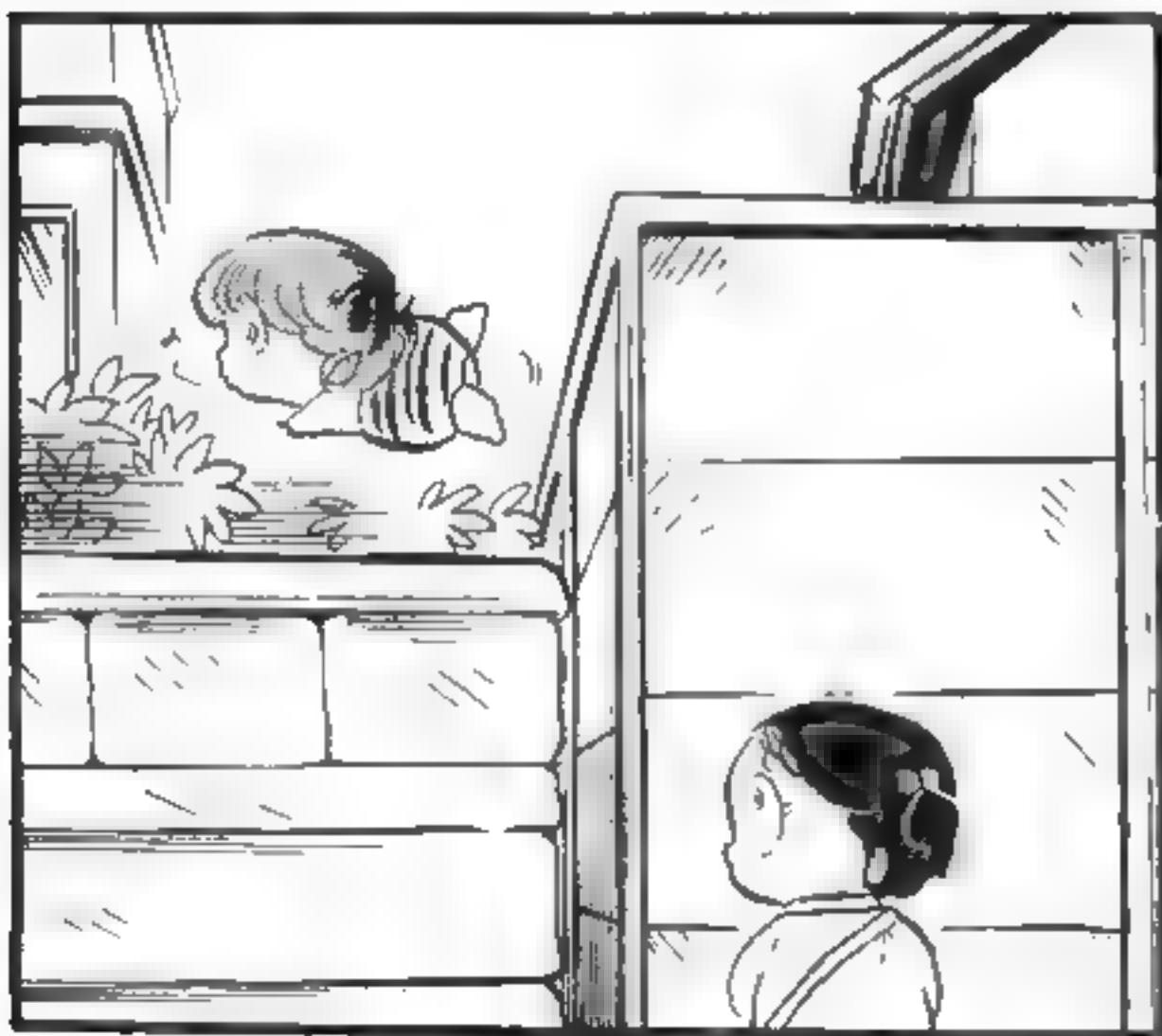
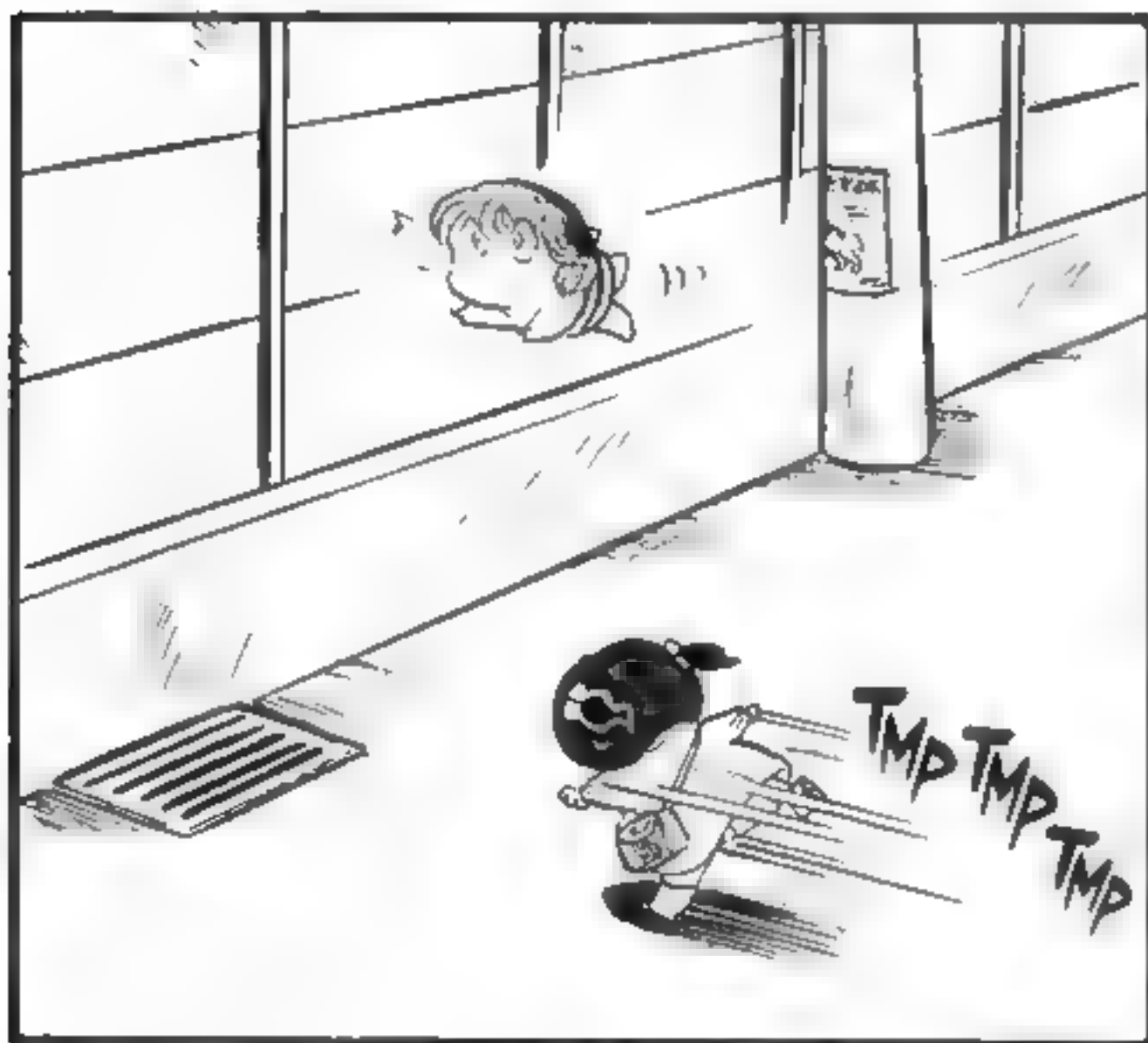


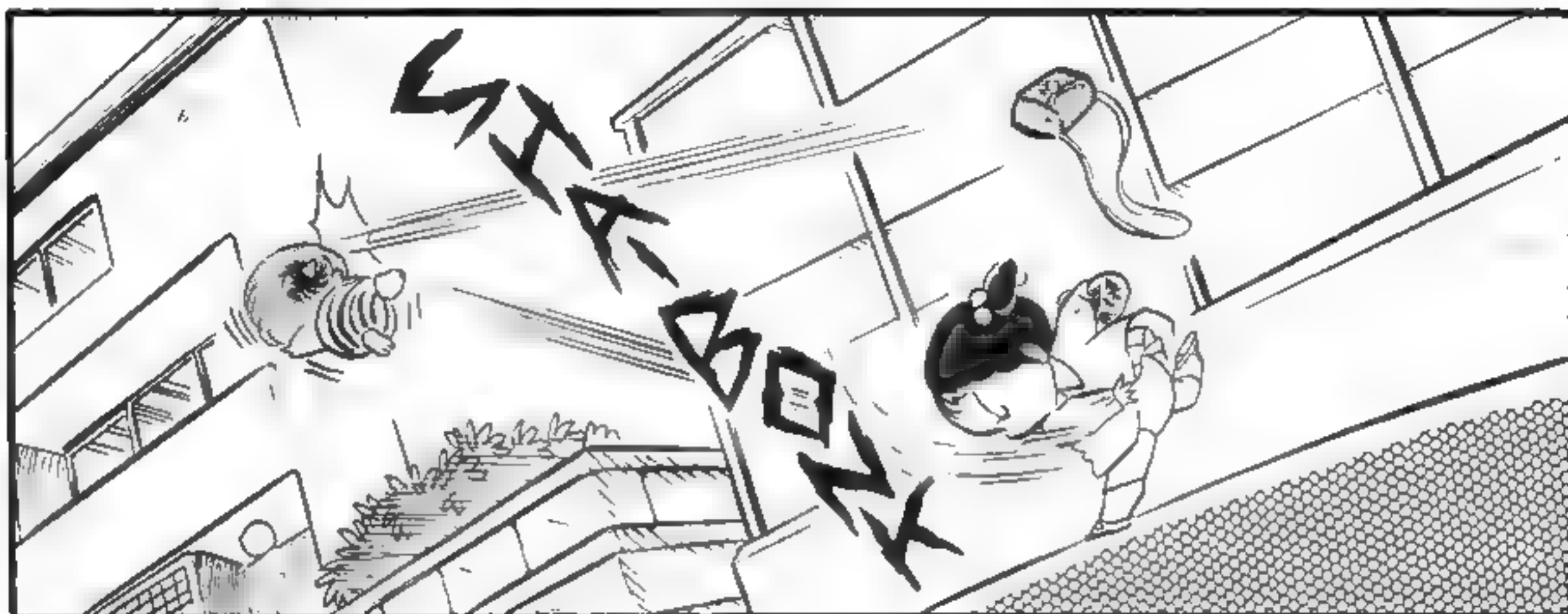


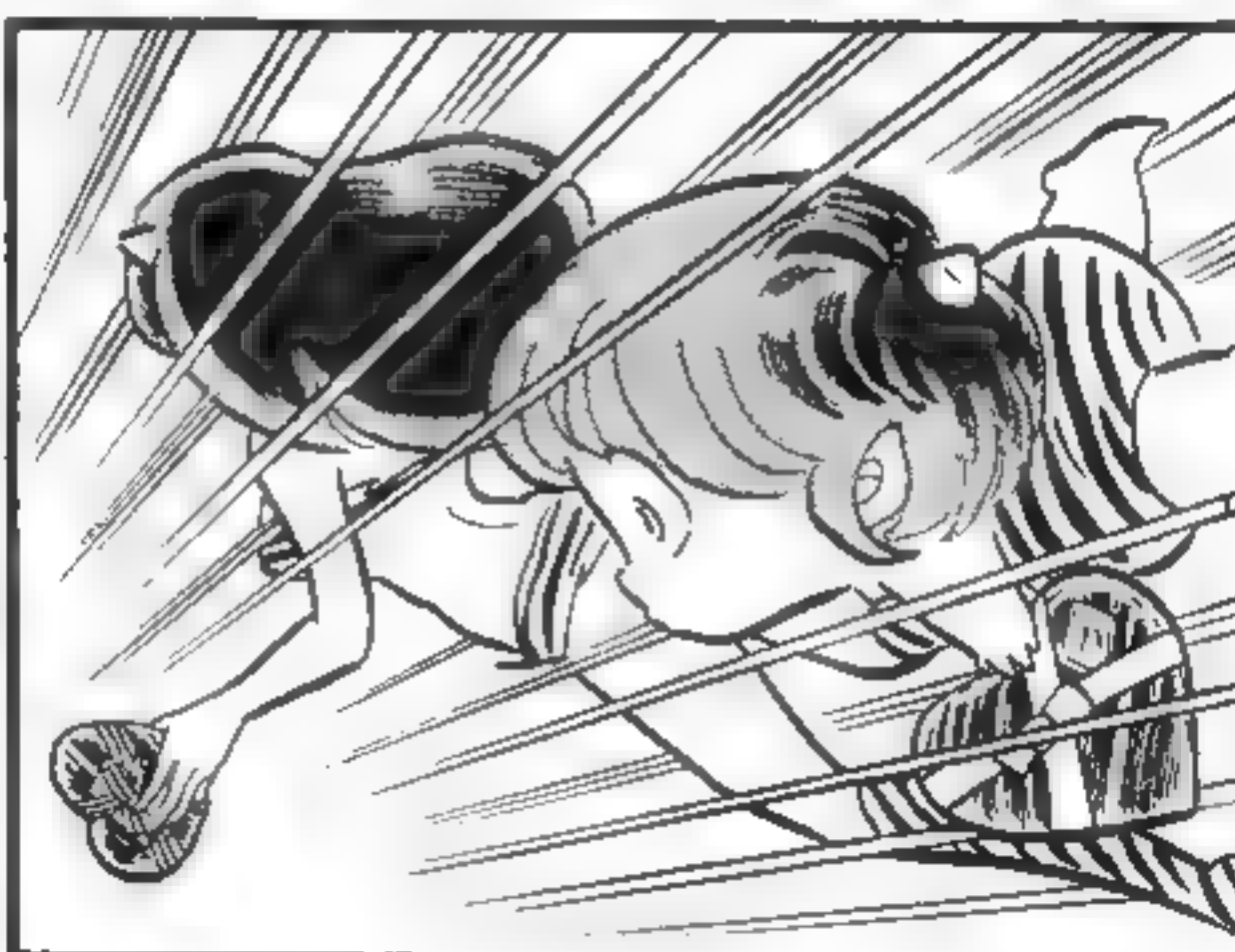
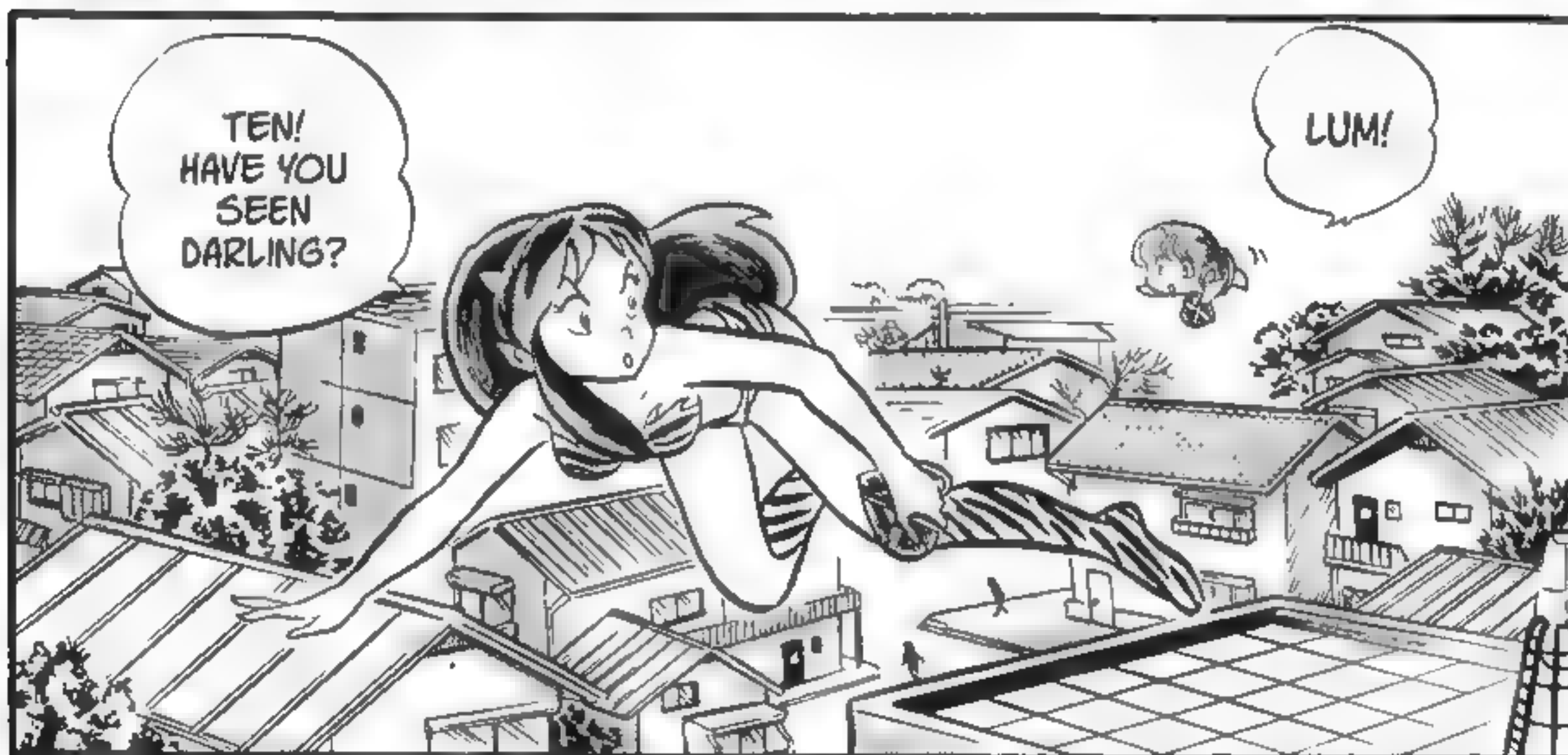
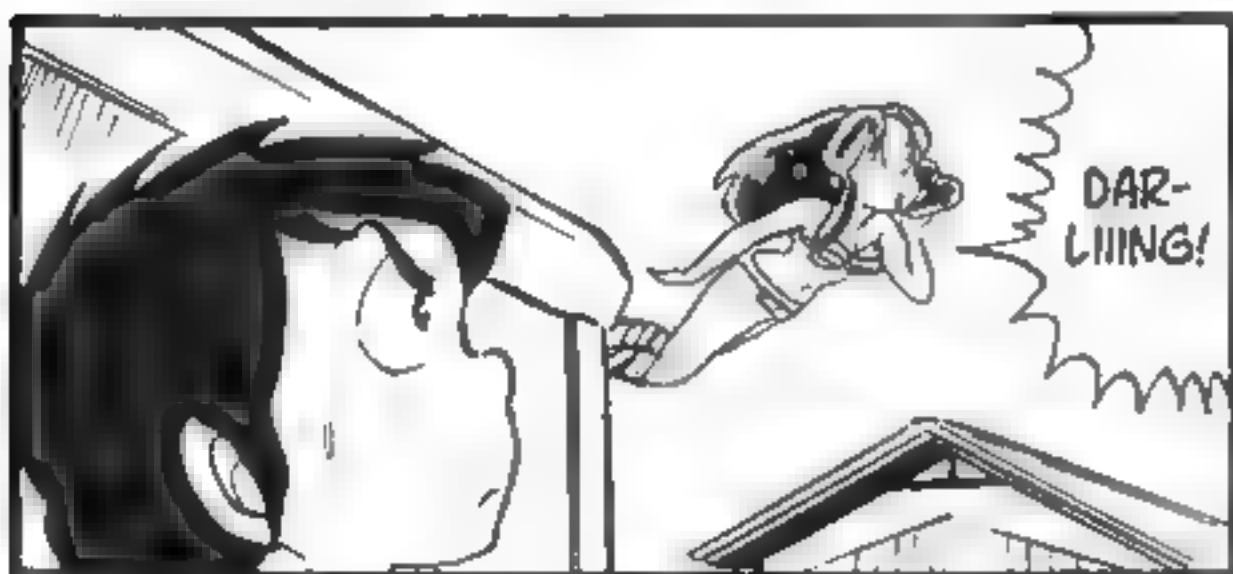
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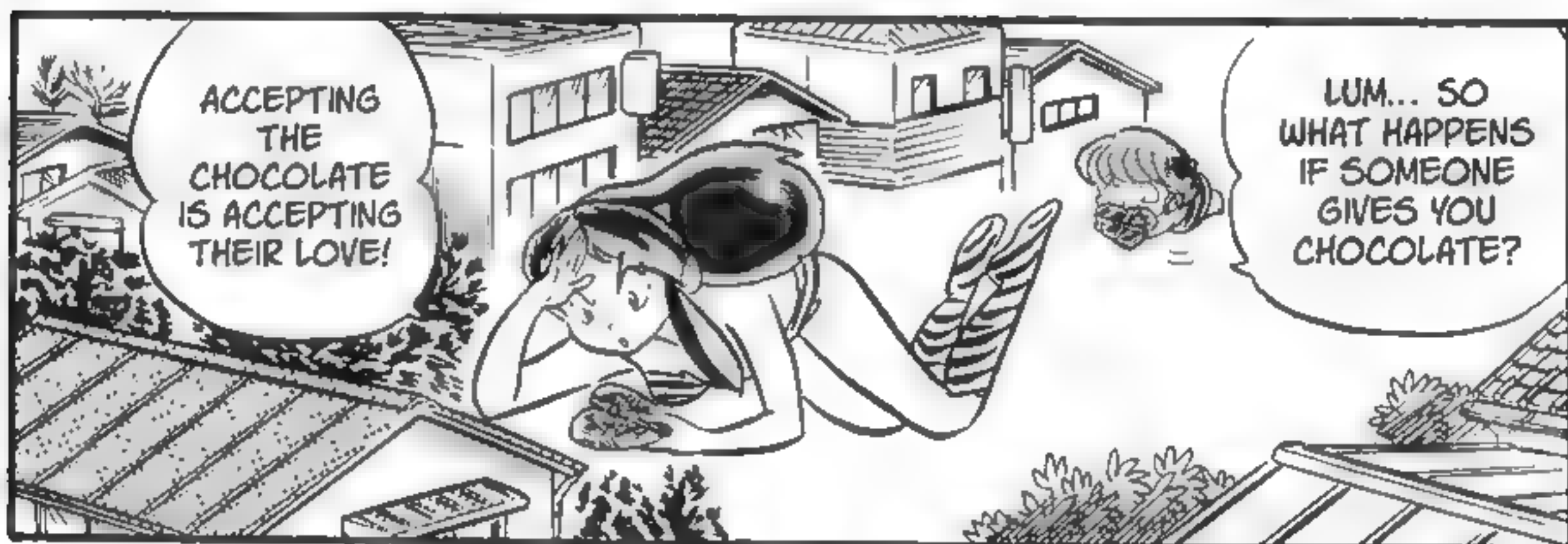
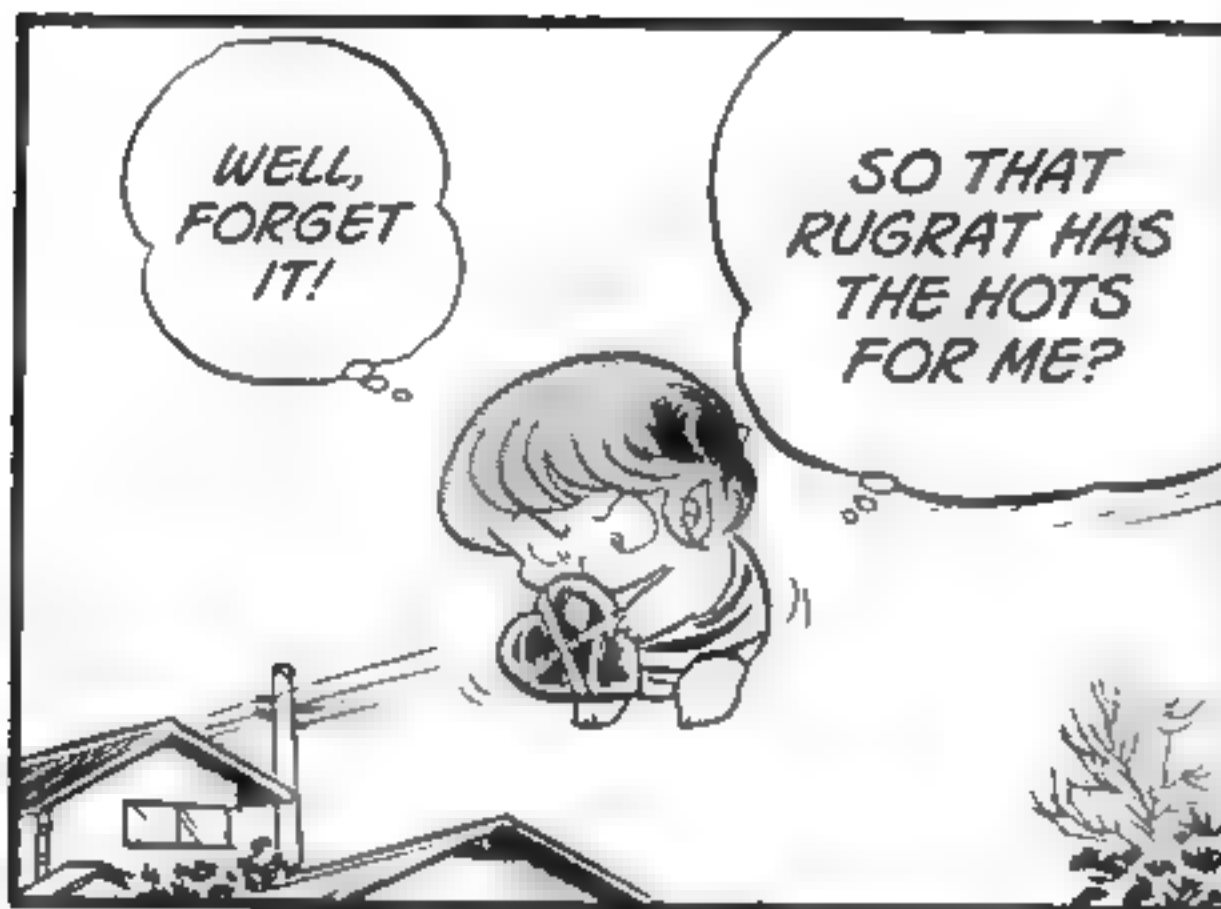






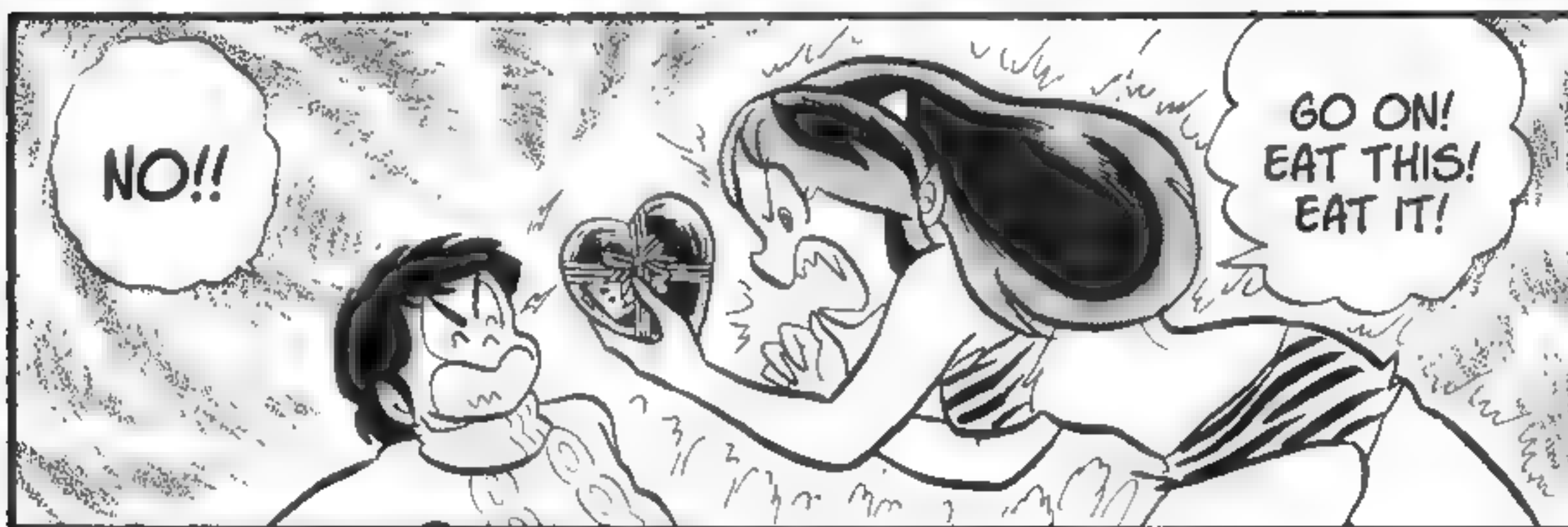
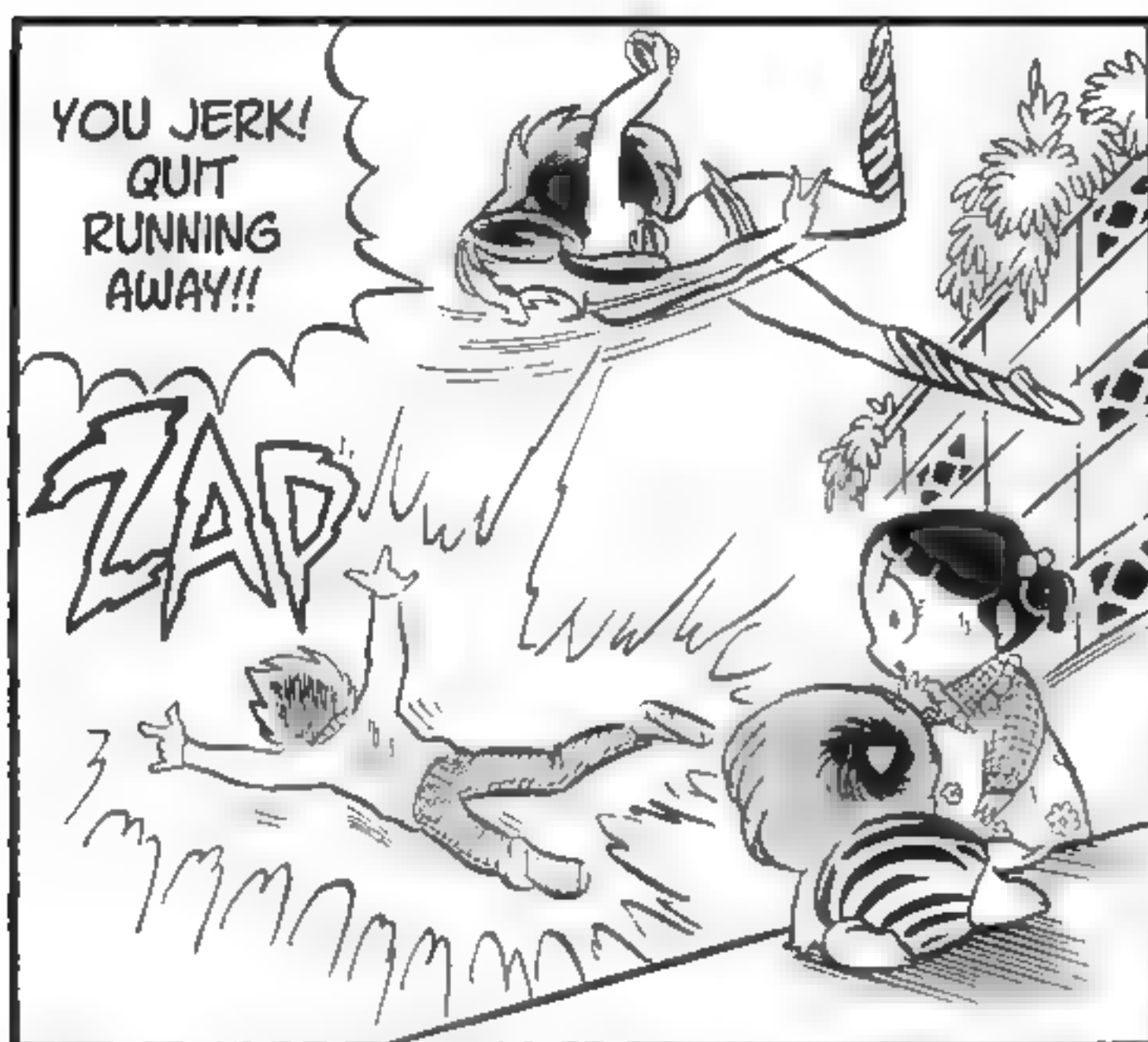


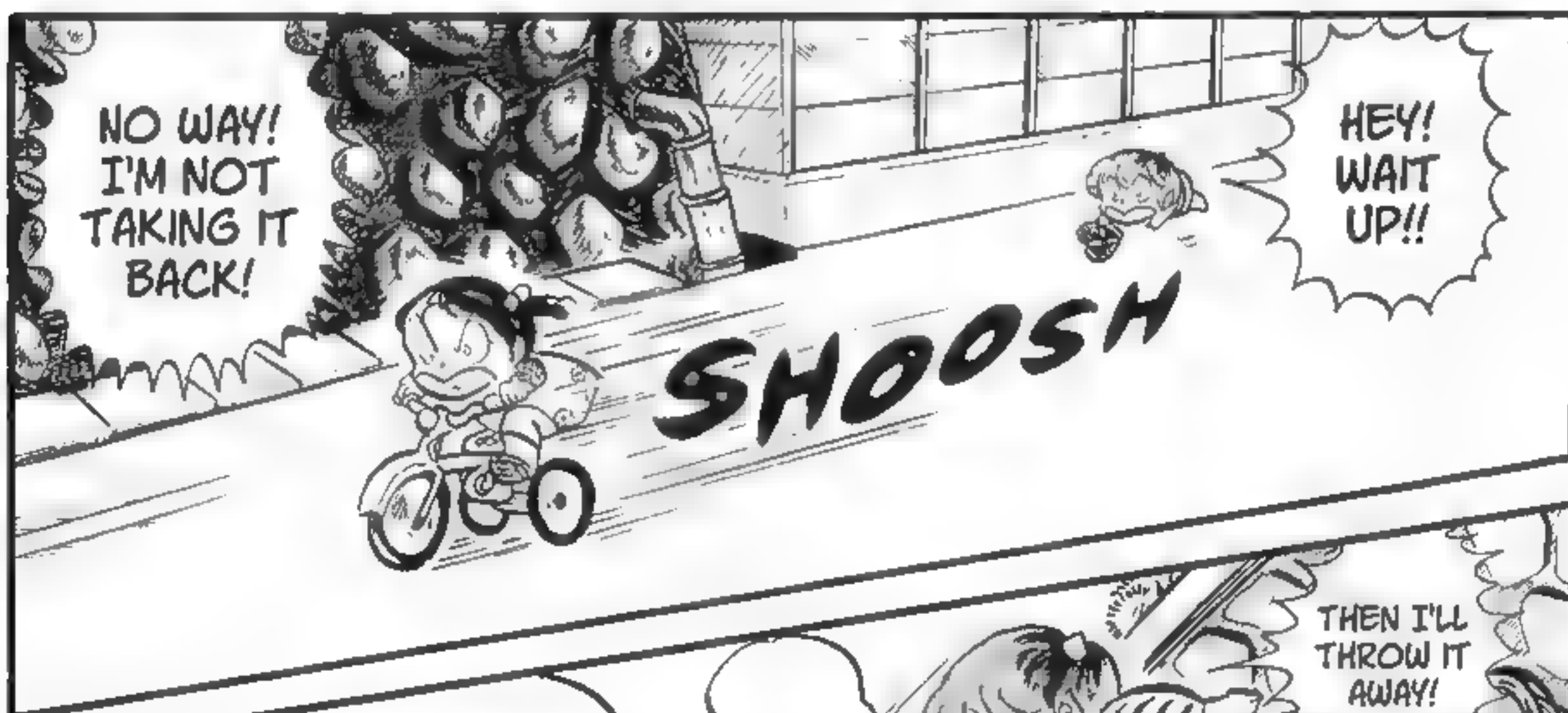


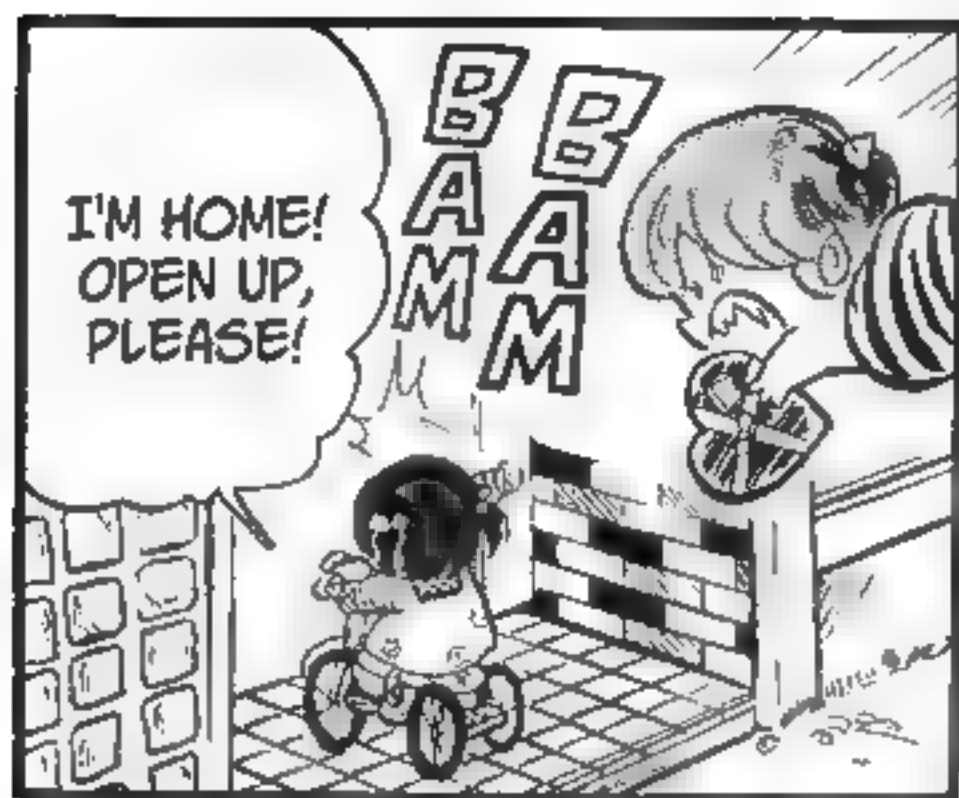








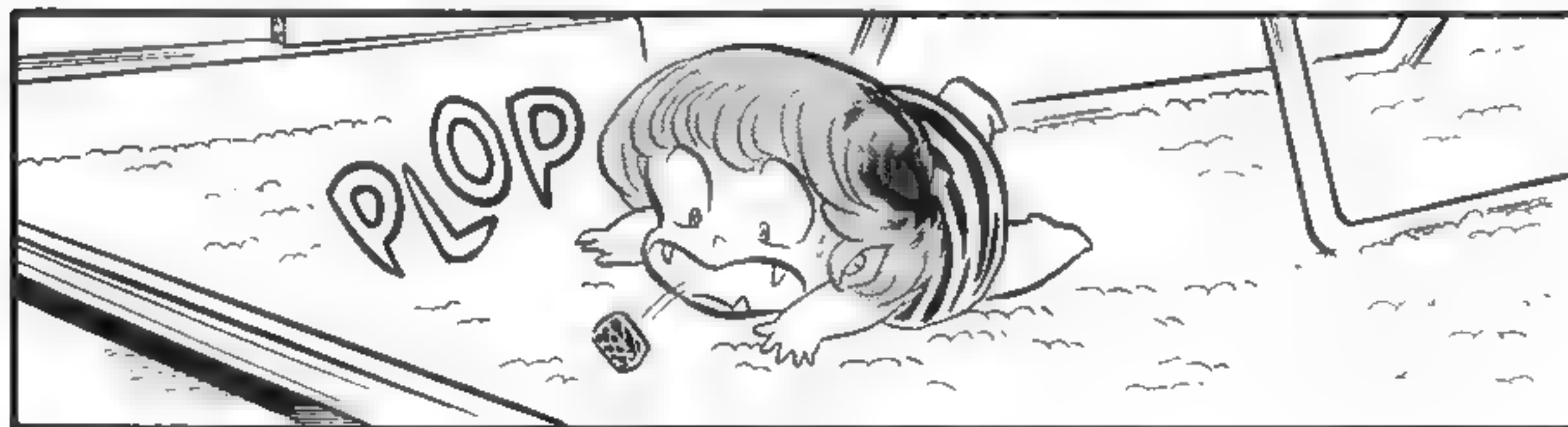
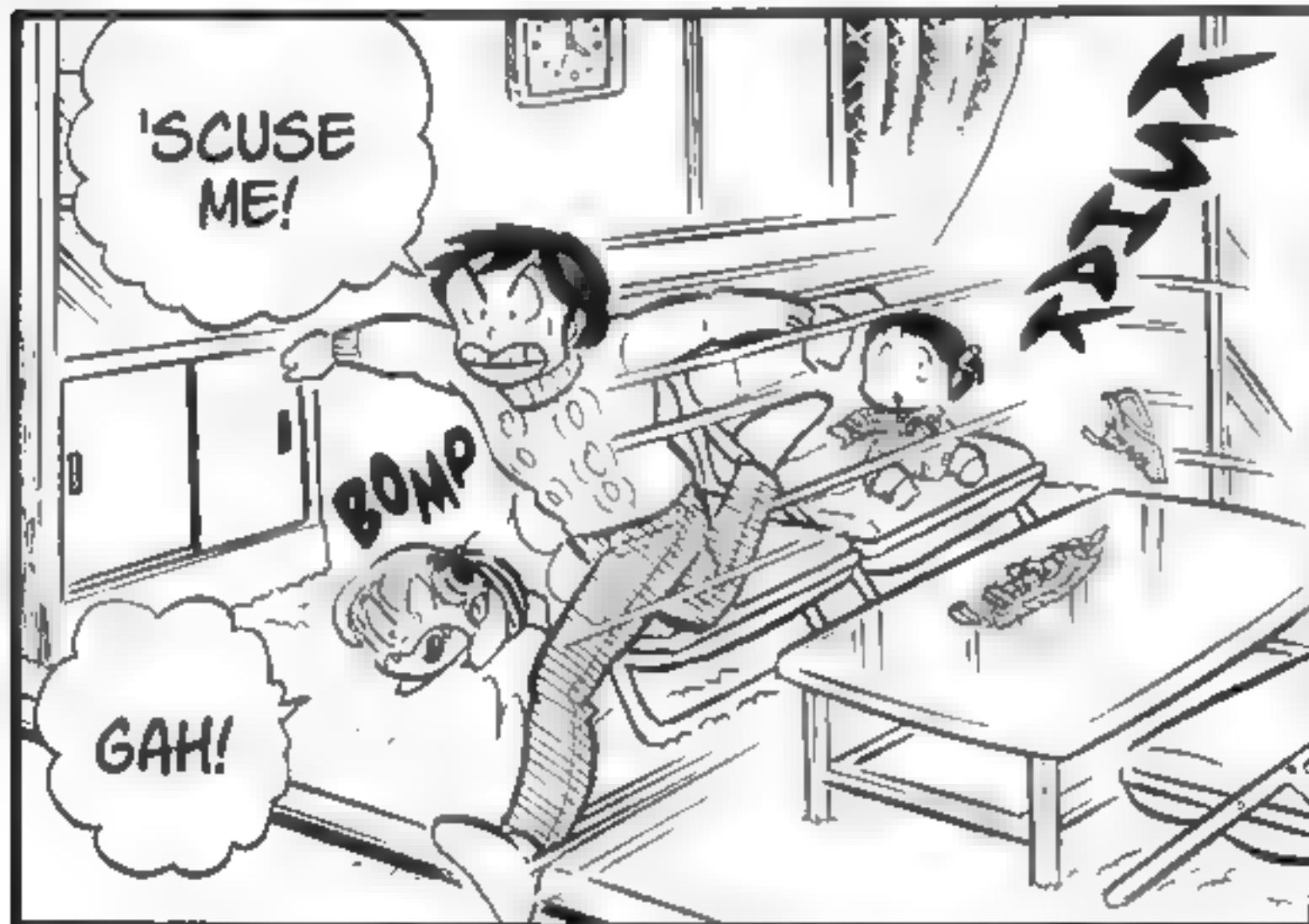


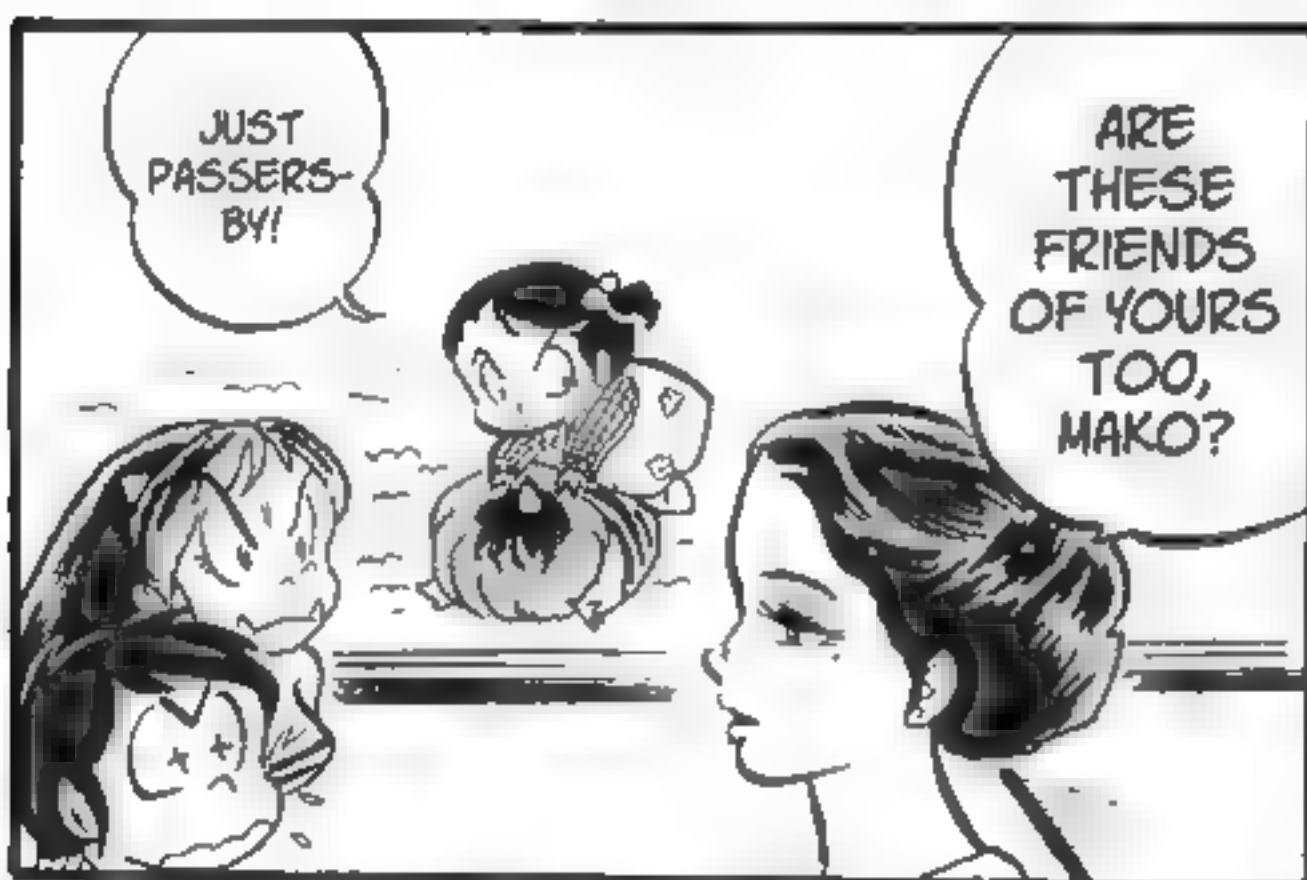
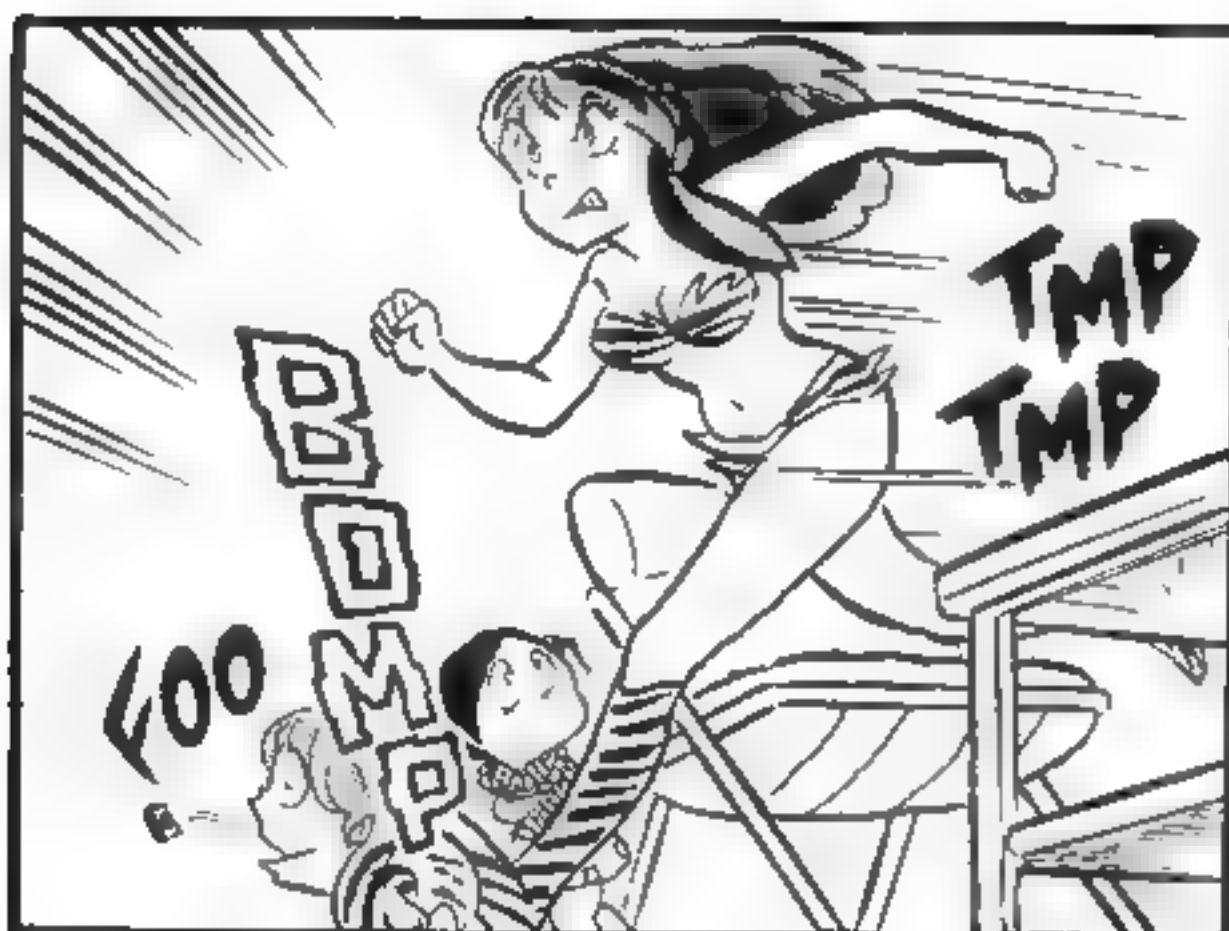


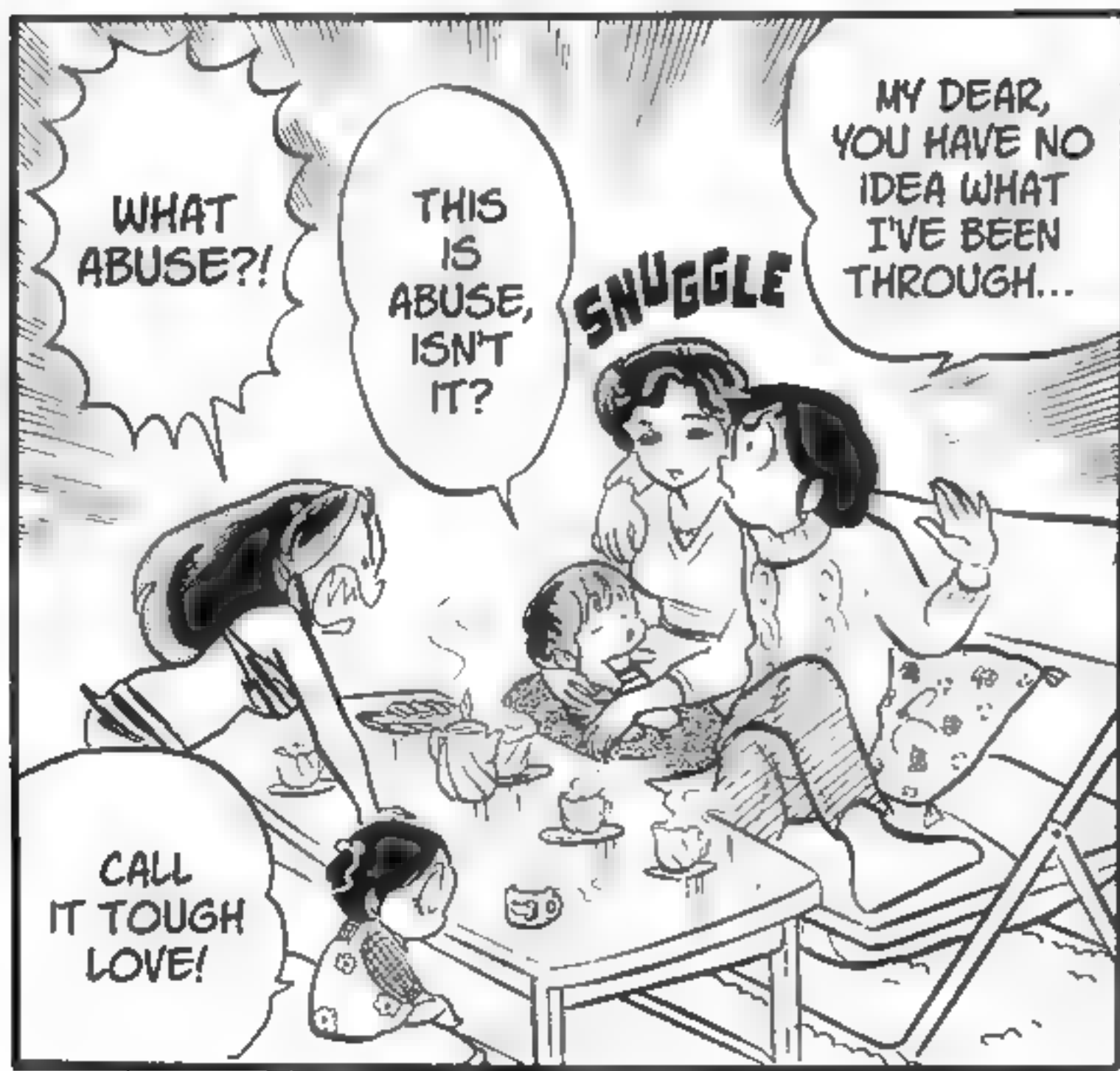
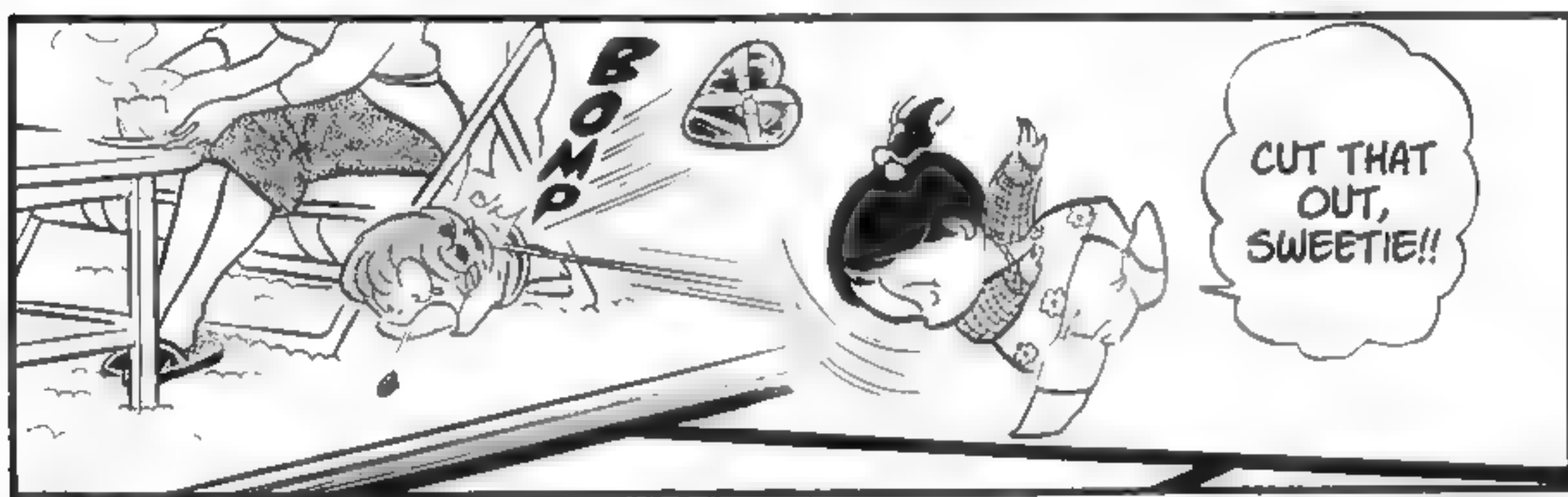
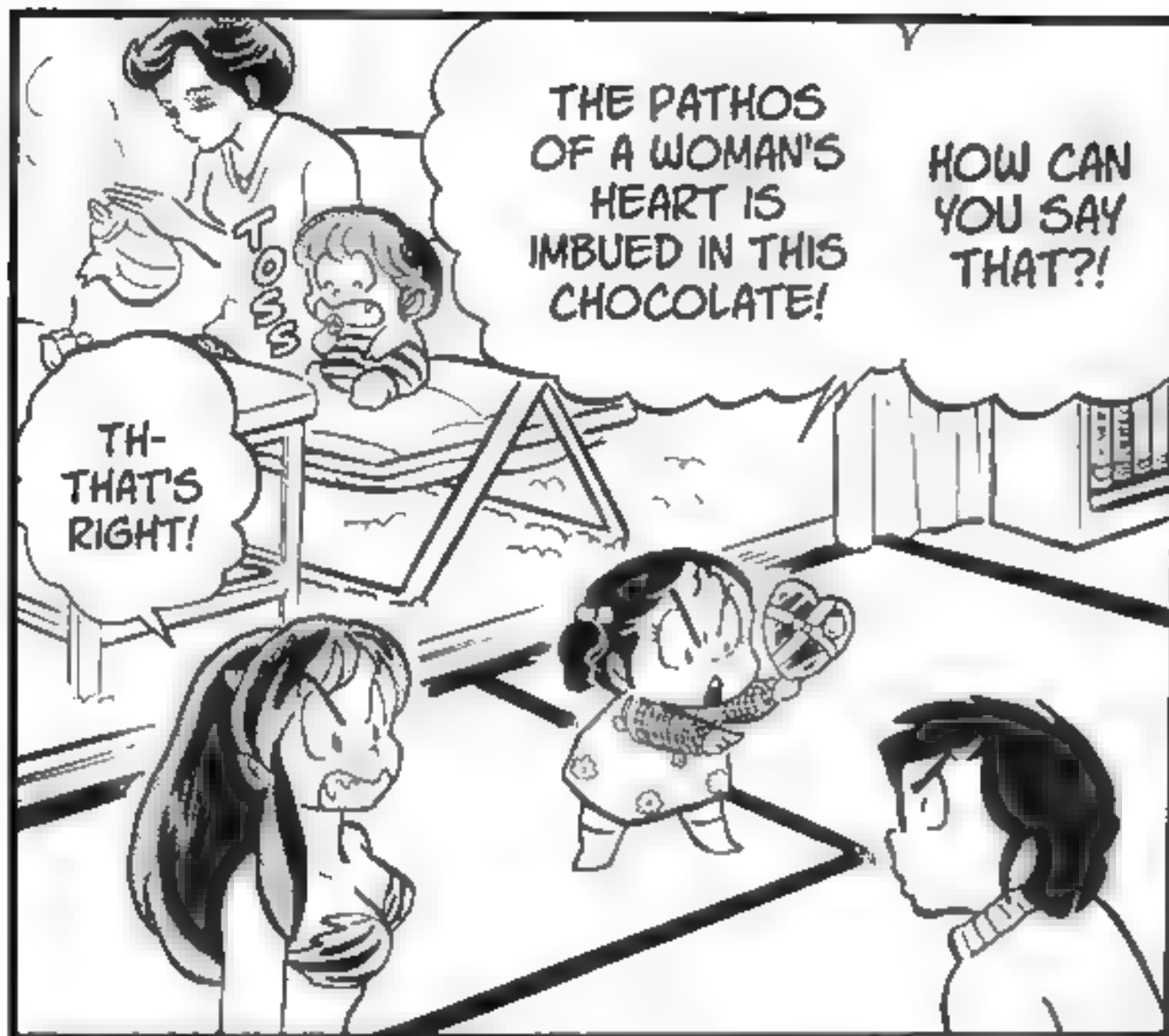
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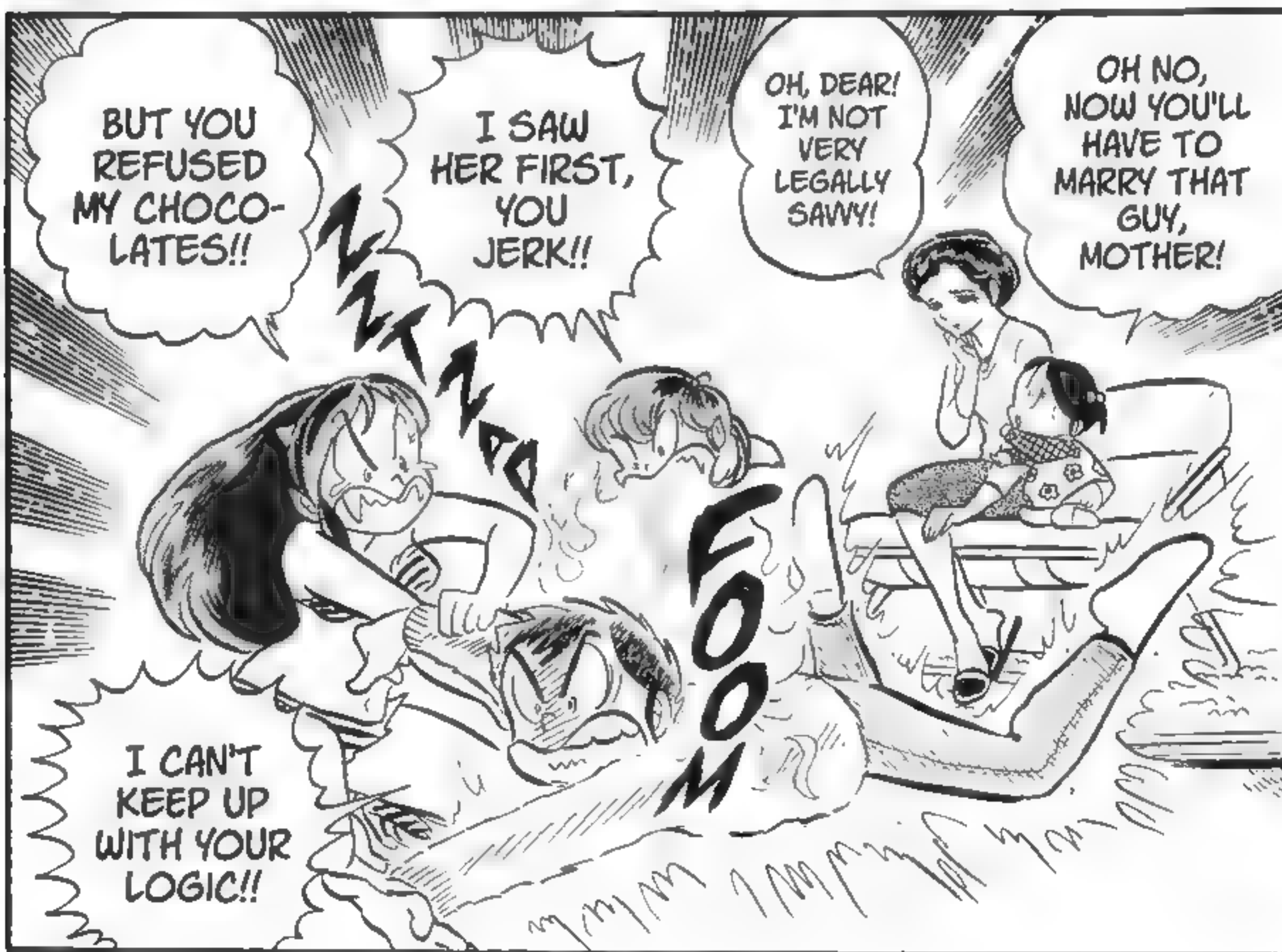












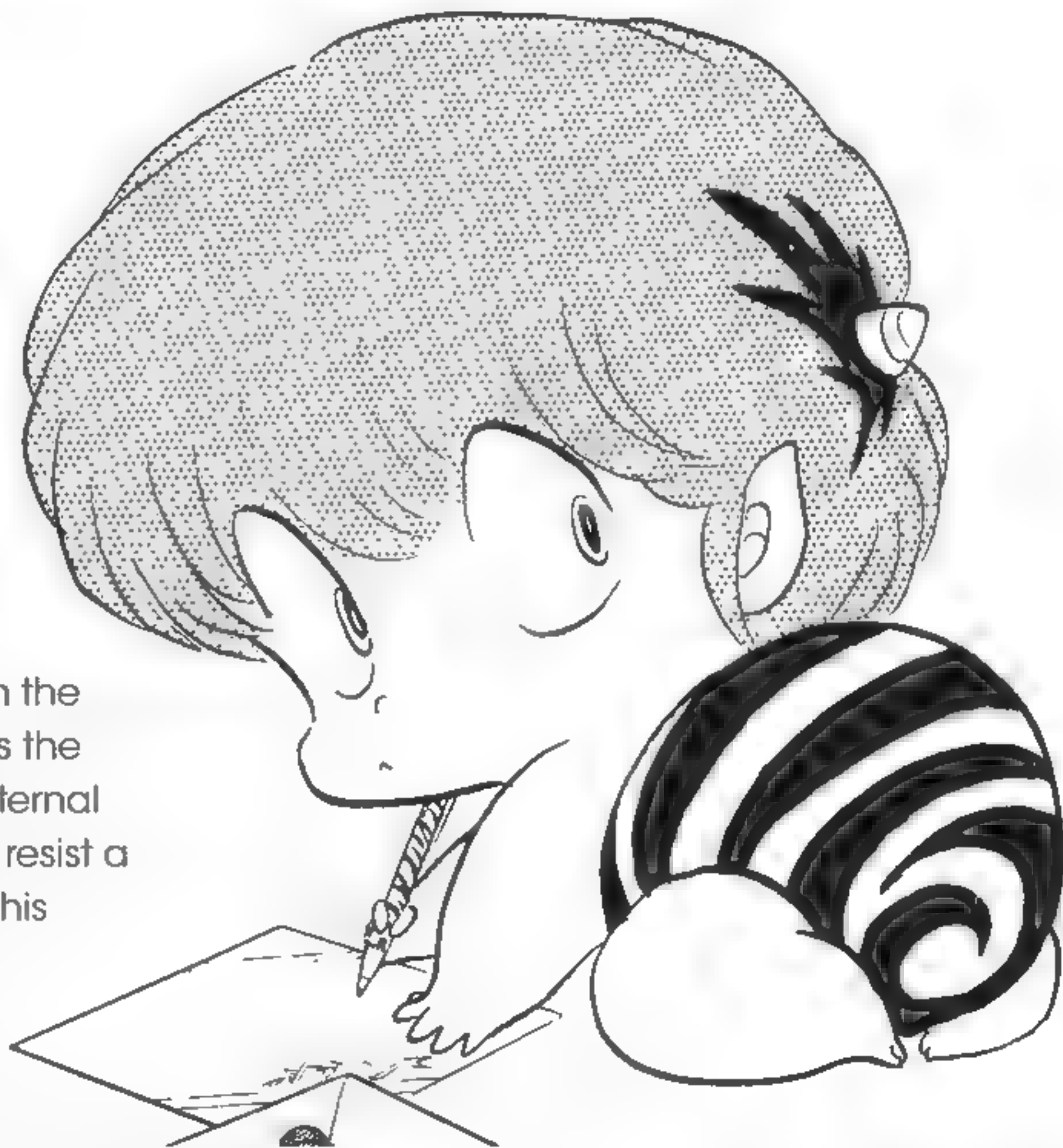
URUSEI YATSURA ★

DATA FILE 07

Precocious Space Boy! Ten's Adult Sentiments

Whenever Ataru abuses him, Ten reminds us that he is only a child, protesting, "I'm a good little boy!" But there's no denying that sometimes Ten's behavior belies his tender years! Let's investigate Ten's precocious maturity!

There's no need to extol Ten's cuteness. Adored by all of the female characters in the book, Ten clearly has the power to trigger maternal instincts. Who could resist a smile at the sight of his short, chubby arms and legs flailing about as he bobs through the air?



Yes, Ten bewitches those around him with his charms, but what piques our curiosity are the moments when he exhibits bizarrely adult qualities. In this installment, we'll examine the many instances when Ten's words and behavior seem oddly precocious for his age.



◀ He can't resist gossip!
(volume 13, chapter 18
"Haunted Mendo")

STUDY 1

How old are you really?! ①

He gossips like an old woman!

When Ten comes across a group of people speaking in hushed tones, he's overcome with the urge to get involved

When Lum and Ataru are sharing a whispered conversation in class, Ten comes drifting in out of nowhere and sneakily listens in (volume 7, chapter 9 "Domestic Spat Settlement") and unconsciously butts in with "What are you talking about?" when Sakura and

Cherry are colluding, risking getting dragged into their dangerous affairs.

Sometimes Ten even jumps right into the middle of a conversation shouting "Tell me, too!" (volume 5, chapter 7 "Deranged Marriage, Part 1").

Ten doesn't just like to hear gossip. He likes to spread it, too.

When he hears that Lum is going to be set up with an arranged marriage, he spreads the word all over Tomobiki High School, insisting, "Don't tell anyone!" (volume 5, chapter 7 "Deranged Marriage, Part 1"). When he gets ahold of Mendo's secret, he flies off in a frenzy to spread it all over Tomobiki Town (volume 13, chapter 18 "Haunted Mendo"). His big mouth and vulgar attraction to the scandalous goes beyond an endearing, childish curiosity and approaches the level of a veteran rumor-mongering old auntie of the Kansai region.



◀ Ten is the one who brings Kotatsu Kitty to Tomobiki Town (volume 6, chapter 9 "There's a Cat on the Stairs!")

STUDY 2



How old are you really?! ②

He loves to meddle!

◀ Ten treats the tearful Hot Spring Emblem to okonomiyaki (volume 4, chapter 19 "The Heian Arc, Scroll Three")

Ten isn't always satisfied just to hear stories—sometimes he gets the urge to take action of his own. In fact, he can be quite a busybody.

When Ten discovers Misuzu on the roof of the Moroboshi's house and learns that she is possessed by her own pet cat, Snowy, he investigates her story like a parent, asking, "Why's that?" (volume 4, chapter 15 "Beware the Fearsome Meow-Meow"). And when he discovers a mysterious masked man called SuperDelicious (etc.) Kid #28 suffering and calling out for water on a rooftop, he approaches the stranger without hesitation, inquiring, "What's wrong, mister?" (volume 11, chapter 19 "Glittering, Dazzling Defenders of Justice").

If that were all, we might still chalk it up to generosity of spirit. But then there was the time when he came across a swallow feeding its chick a worm and declares, "What a poor diet!" Overwhelmed with pity, Ten gives the swallow his caramel, accidentally transforming it into a penguin and causing a great hullabaloo (volume 5, chapter 2 "The Swallow and the Penguin").

Now, at this point, it must be acknowledged that Ten is a full-blown busybody. At his tender age, Ten already has the gumption and obliviousness of a drunken old uncle!



◀ Ten rescues a yakuza from hanging himself! (volume 14, chapter 4 "Mother's Heart, Child's Heart")

STUDY 3

How old are you really?! ③

He's Only Interested in Older Women!

Ten is very into women, albeit not as pathologically as Ataru.

The first woman he falls in love with on Earth is Sakura. Without anyone realizing it, he quickly gets ahold of Sakura's phone number, prompting Ataru to remark "You're a scary kid!" at Ten's surprisingly proactive behavior (volume 4, chapter 6 "Ten's Love").



▲ This is followed by a debate with Mendo over whether Ten understands the meaning of "pledge vows" (volume 7, chapter 14 "Goodbye, Covenant")

After that, Ten continues to harbor feelings for Sakura while also falling in love with numerous other women, professing, "I'm a player!" These include: the girl at the flower shop (volume 4, chapter 8 "From Flower to Flower") the mother of Mako, the girl who has a crush on Ten (volume 4, chapter 11 "Valentine's Day Disaster"), the granddaughter of Misuzu, who is possessed by a cat's spirit (volume 4, chapter 15 "Beware the Fearsome Meow-Meow") and so forth.

Moreover, when Ten meets Princess Kurama for the first time, he proposes marriage, professing, "Love blossoms suddenly!" (volume 7, chapter 14 "Goodbye, Covenant").

Unlike Ataru, however, Ten is a bit discriminating. He is completely repulsed by the young Mako (volume 4, chapter 11 "Valentine's Day Disaster"), and he has no interest in Ran or Benten, both of whom Ataru worships.



▼ Kotori is the one exception to Ten's romantic proclivities...
(volume 10, chapter 21 "The Flying Girl")



▲ Ataru and Ten discuss the women's bath like a pair of middle-aged men! (volume 7, chapter 8 "Wash Away the Jade Blossom in the Tub")

When we analyze the lineup, it seems that Ten has a penchant for mature women.

Only once, Ten makes an exception and falls for a young girl. Kotori is the ghost of a child who died but couldn't pass on to the spirit world because of an unrealized attachment (volume 10, chapter 21 "The Flying Girl"). "Normally I don't go for children..." Ten muses, perplexed. It seems Kotori's pitiful circumstances tickled Ten's compassionate nature, providing the spark for love to bloom.

Despite his cherubic appearance, Ten plays the rule of the obligatory Kansai character

that every comic manga must have, in the tradition of Paryan (Perman 4) in the *Perman* series or Nishi Ishiboshi in *Inakappe Taisho*. In fact, he is a full-fledged thick-Kansai-dialect-character with strong attractions to adult women in the tradition of Shima Kosaku!



Sakura's astonishing stomach—spookier than the creepiest monster!

When we observe Sakura's eating habits, we are struck by the fact that even when she professes to have little appetite, she can easily put away a 20-man portion in a single sitting (volume 13, chapter 22 "Exorcism Three-Way"). In other words, Sakura is an extraordinary glutton. Thus, even when Sakura doesn't seem to be wolfing down disproportionate quantities, whenever there is a scene in which she is eating, it seems safe to assume the amount consumed is roughly 20 portions. Of course, when the narrative reveals that the actual quantity is higher, we adjust our estimate accordingly. The result of our calculations was nothing short of extraordinary!

720 portions of roast cow!

In the 19 meals Sakura eats, we estimate that she consumes roughly 1,472 normal human portions. In other words, in just 19 sittings, Sakura inhales the amount of food a normal person would eat in a year and three months!

The largest amount Sakura ever consumes in one meal is during the Hell Course challenge where she puts away spaghetti, a 300g steak, seared raw bonito, roasted chicken, a whole roasted turkey, a whole roasted pig, and a whole roasted cow, totaling more than 15 platters of food (volume 3, chapter 9 "Food Fight"). By the way, a roasted cow is equivalent to roughly 720 portions of food.

If we consider that Sakura consumes this mammoth quantity of food after having taken a supplement that causes her stomach contents to swell by a factor of 300, we can clearly conclude that Sakura's stomach is spookier than the eeriest of specters.

▼ Naturally, she orders extra-large portions of rice (volume 7, chapter 2 "Musashi, in Training")



When she goes on a date with her fiancé Tsubame, Sakura restricts herself to normal portions. Does she pre-eat before a date to stave off hunger?!

Number of meals Sakura consumes.....19
Estimated portions consumed in just 19 meals.....1,472
Estimated price tag of total food consumed in 19 meals.....1,901,600 yen*

*About \$19,016

Foods consumed by Sakura:

Entire roasted pig, entire roasted cow, Shimonoseki blowfish, ramen, yakisoba, taiyaki, broiled eel over rice, an extra-large bowl of steamed rice with pickles, the Moroboshi family stew, etc.

Urusei[☆] Yatsura

Part 8

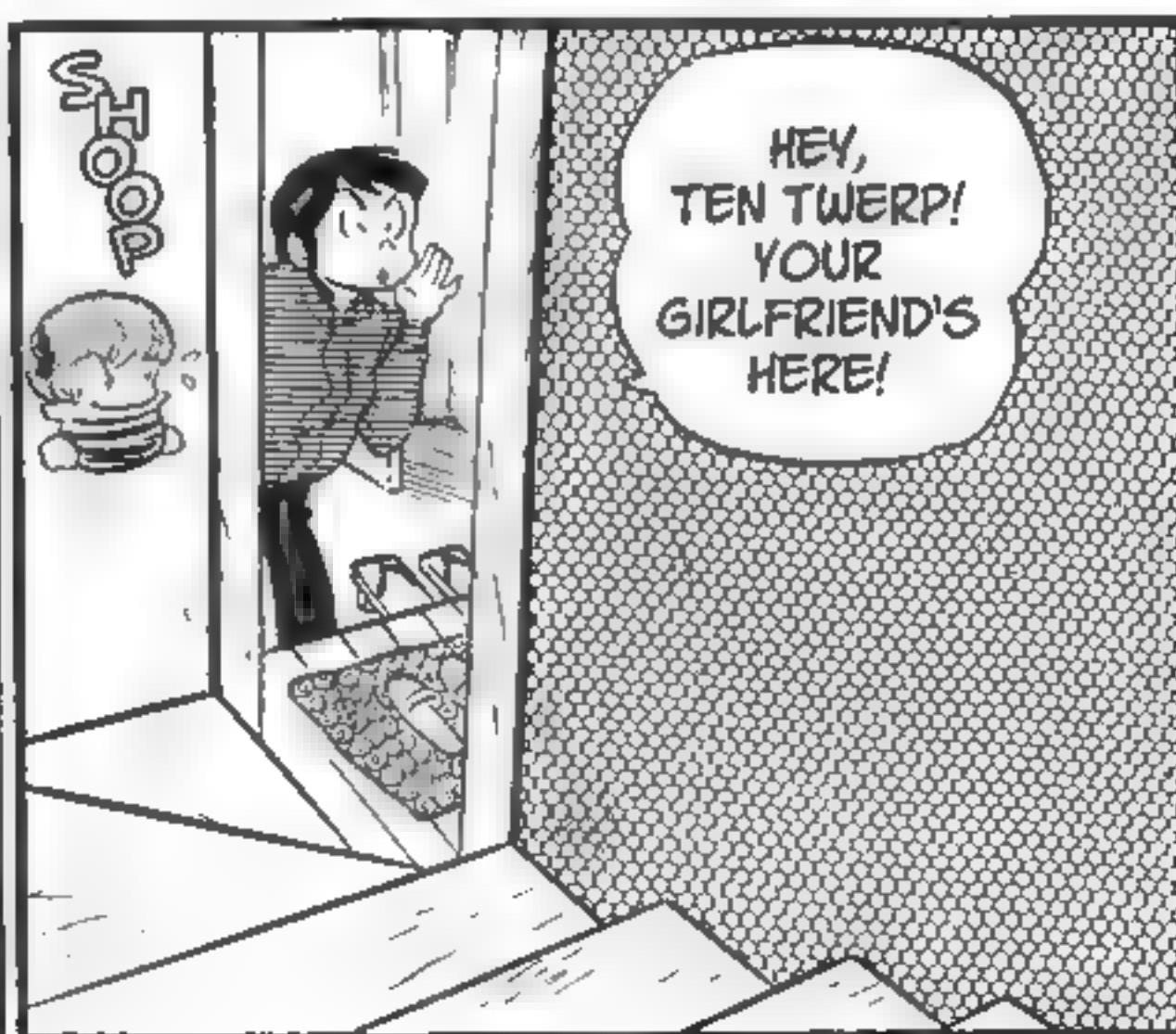
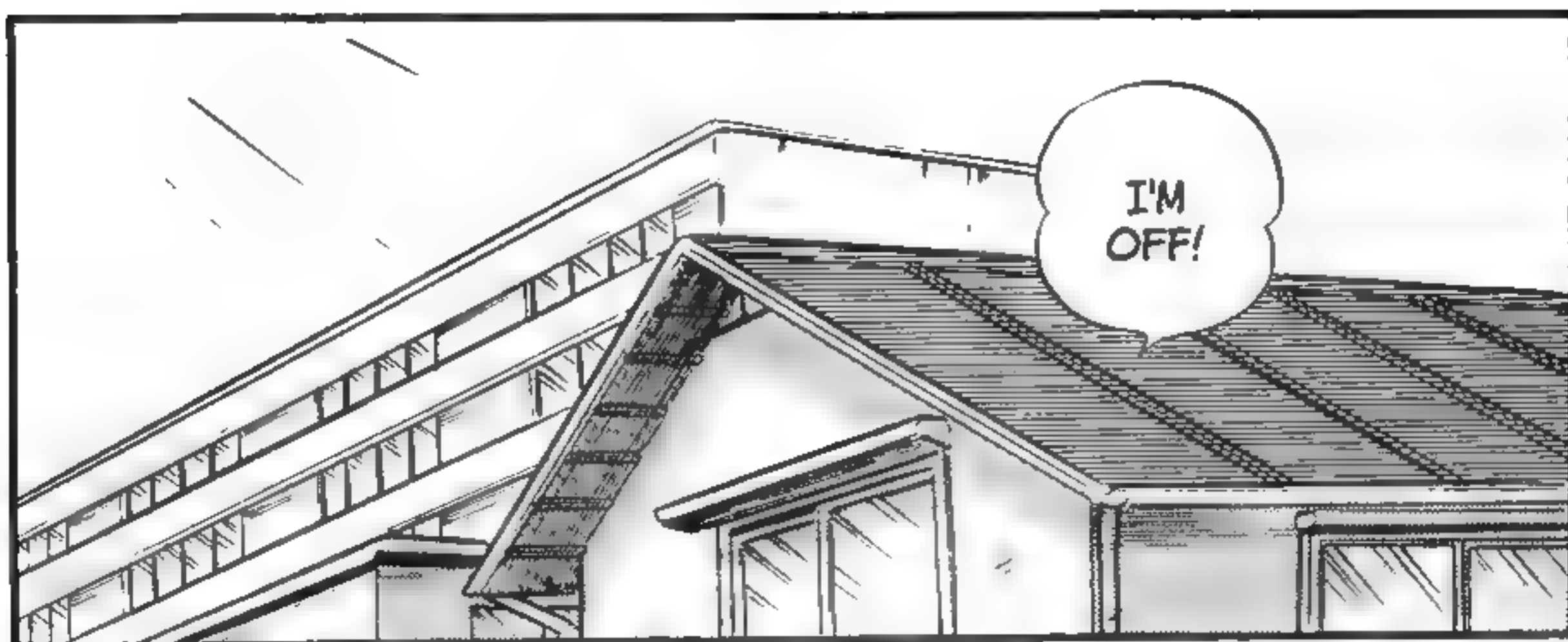


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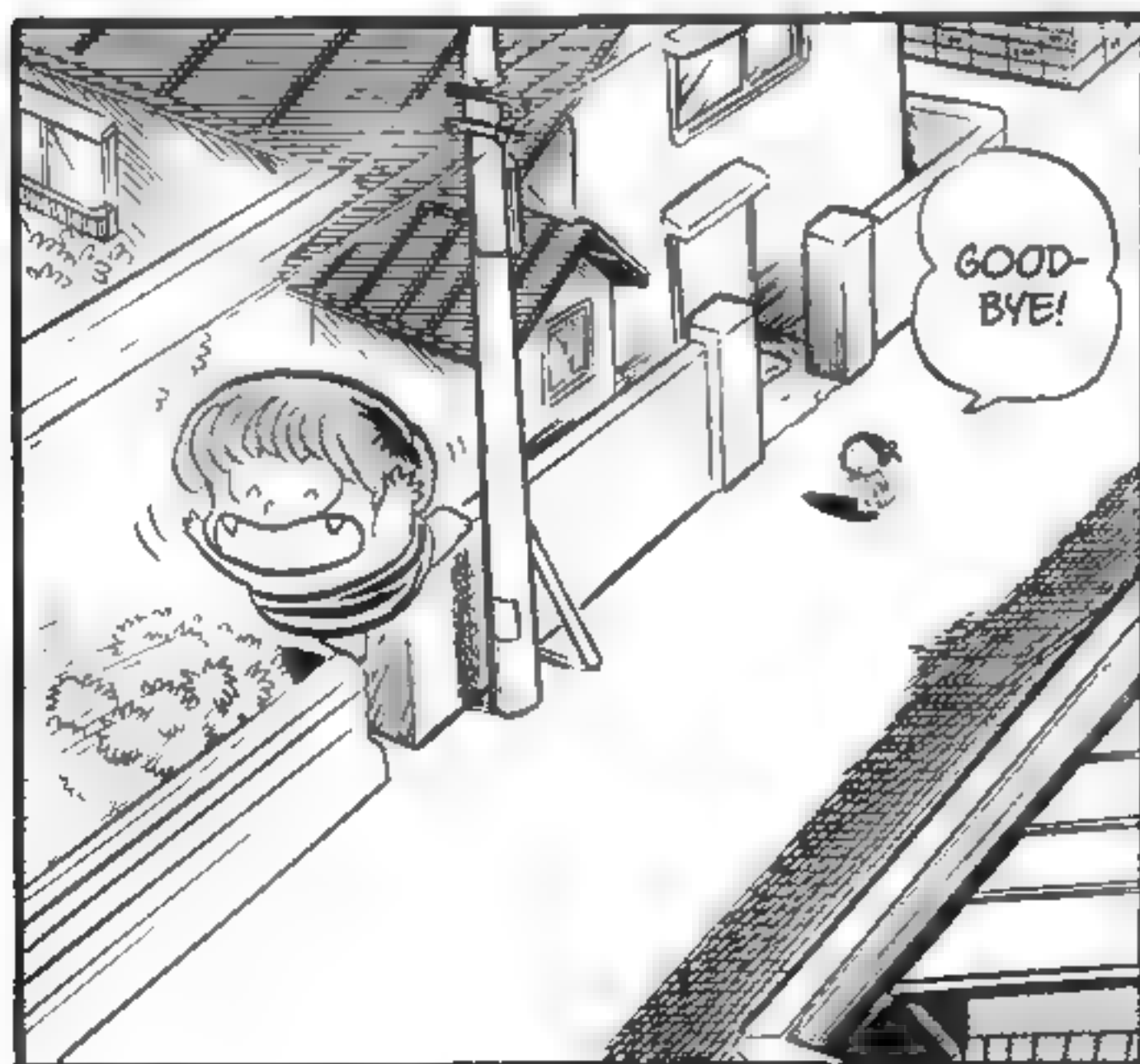
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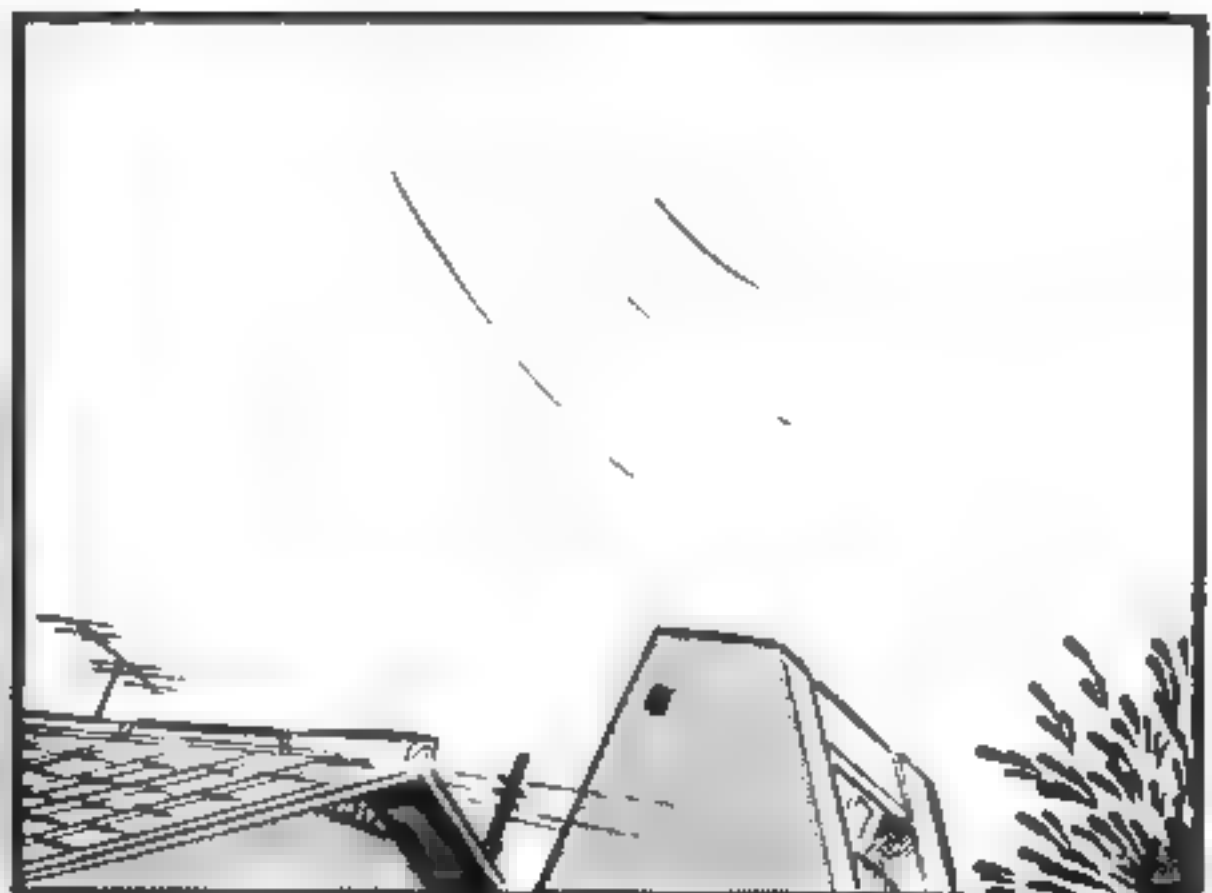
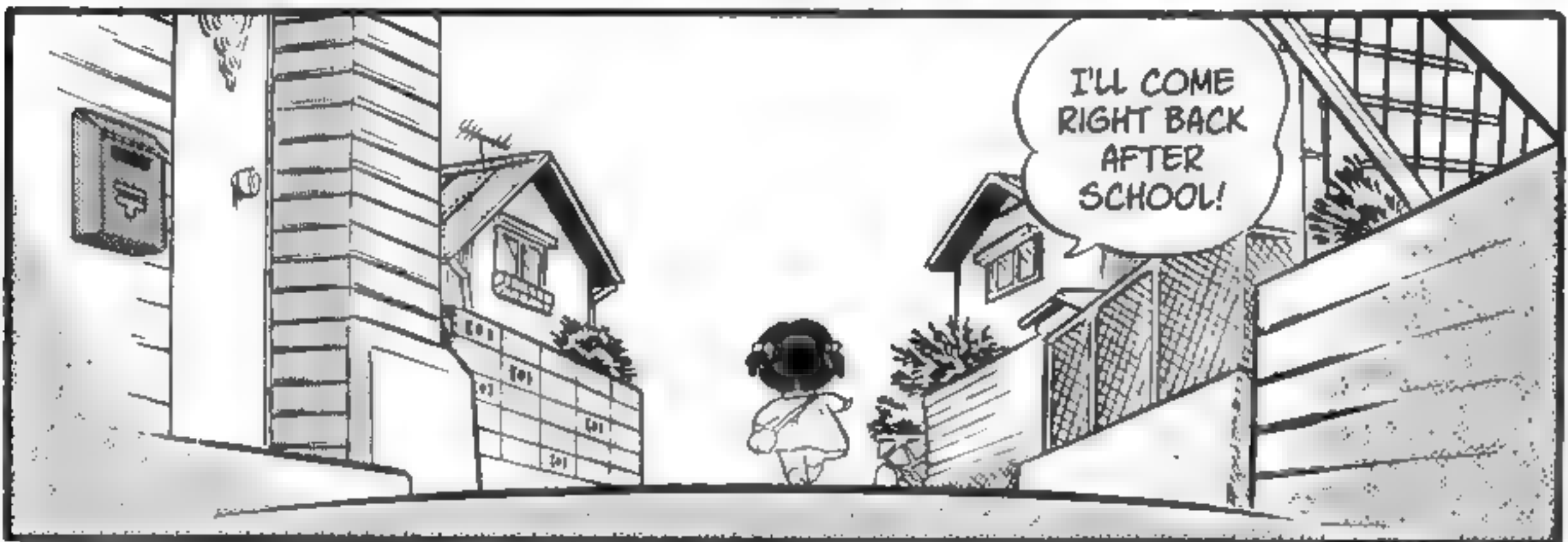
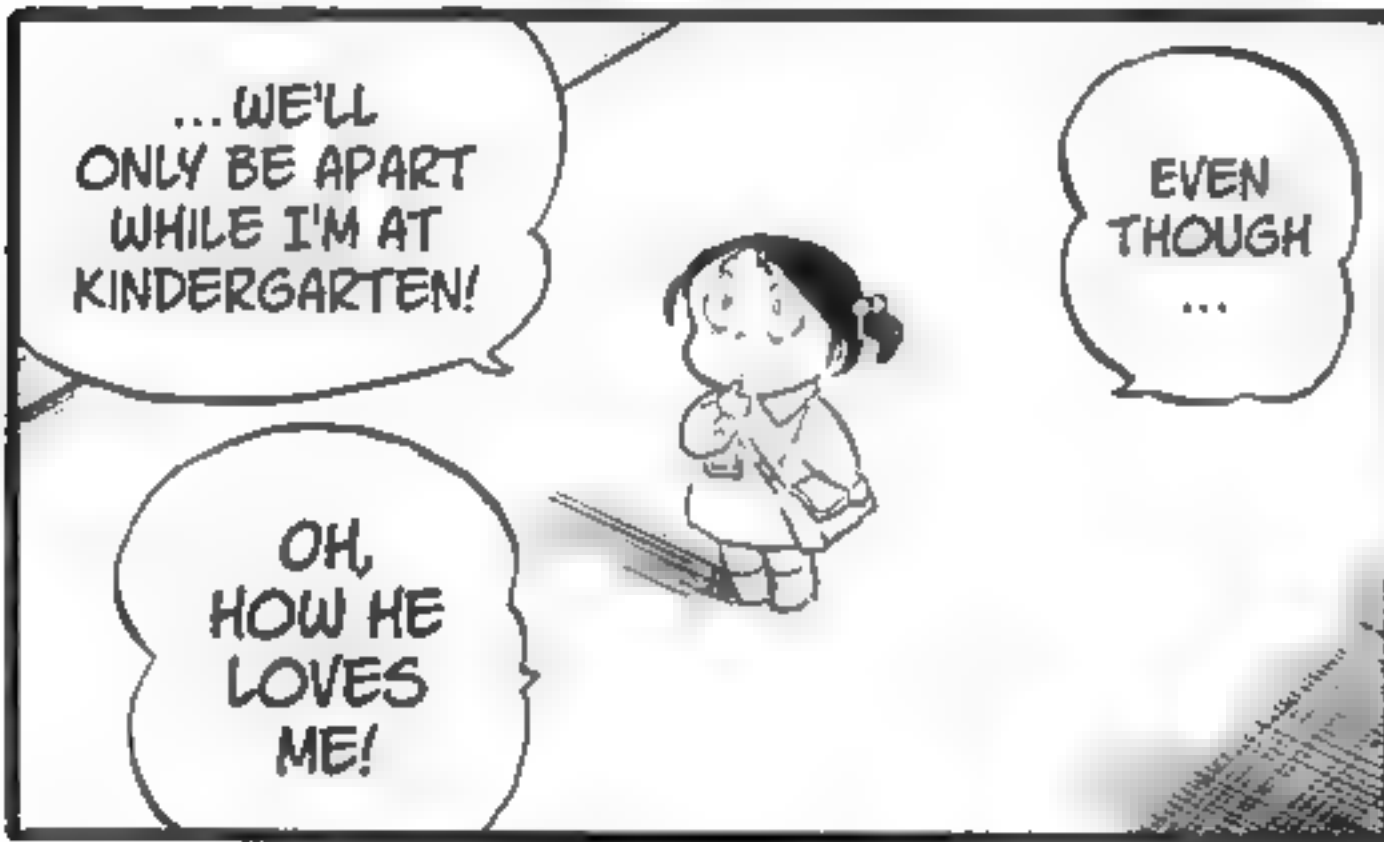
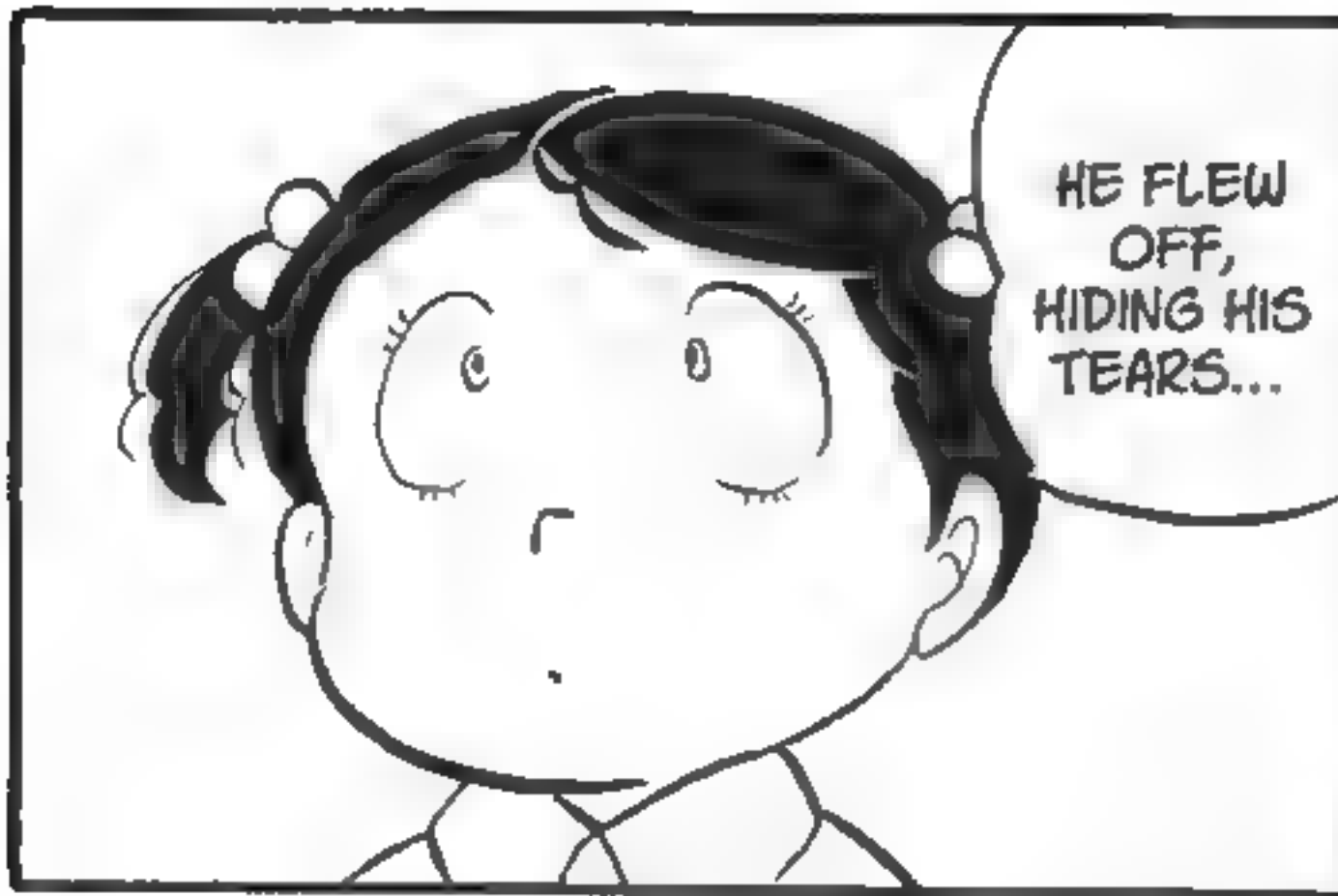
CHAPTER 12: THE ANT TRAP OF LOVE

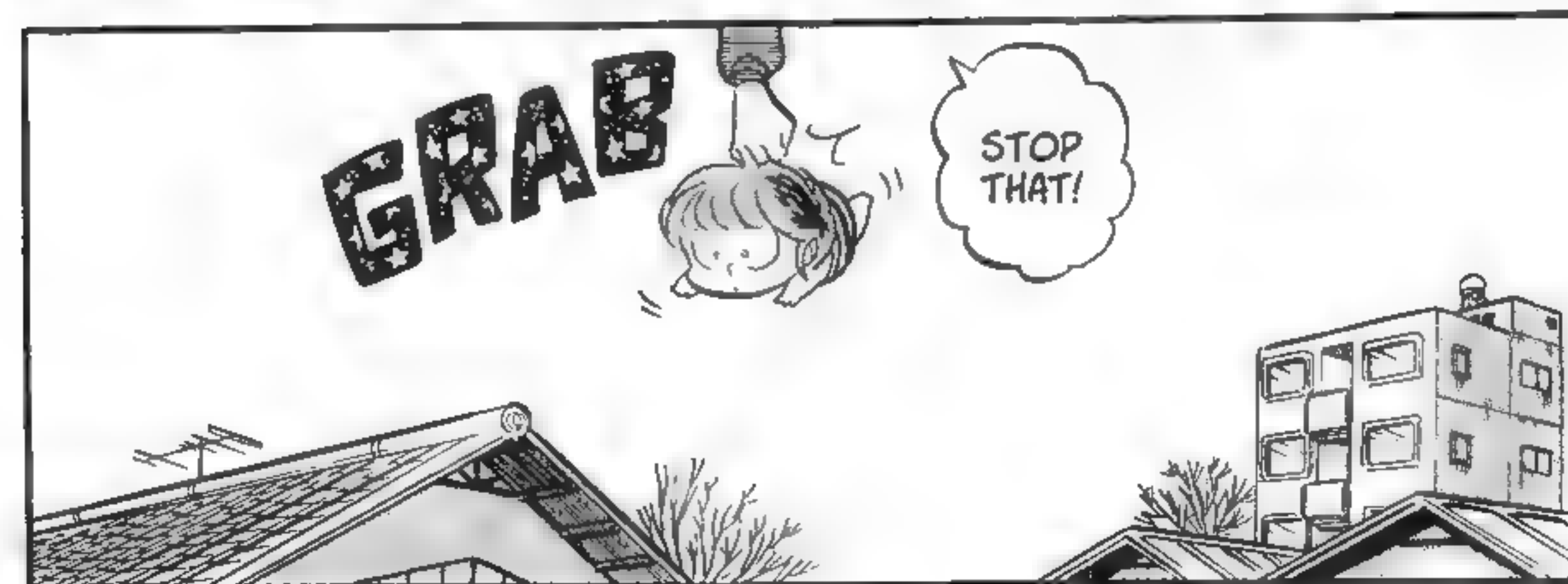


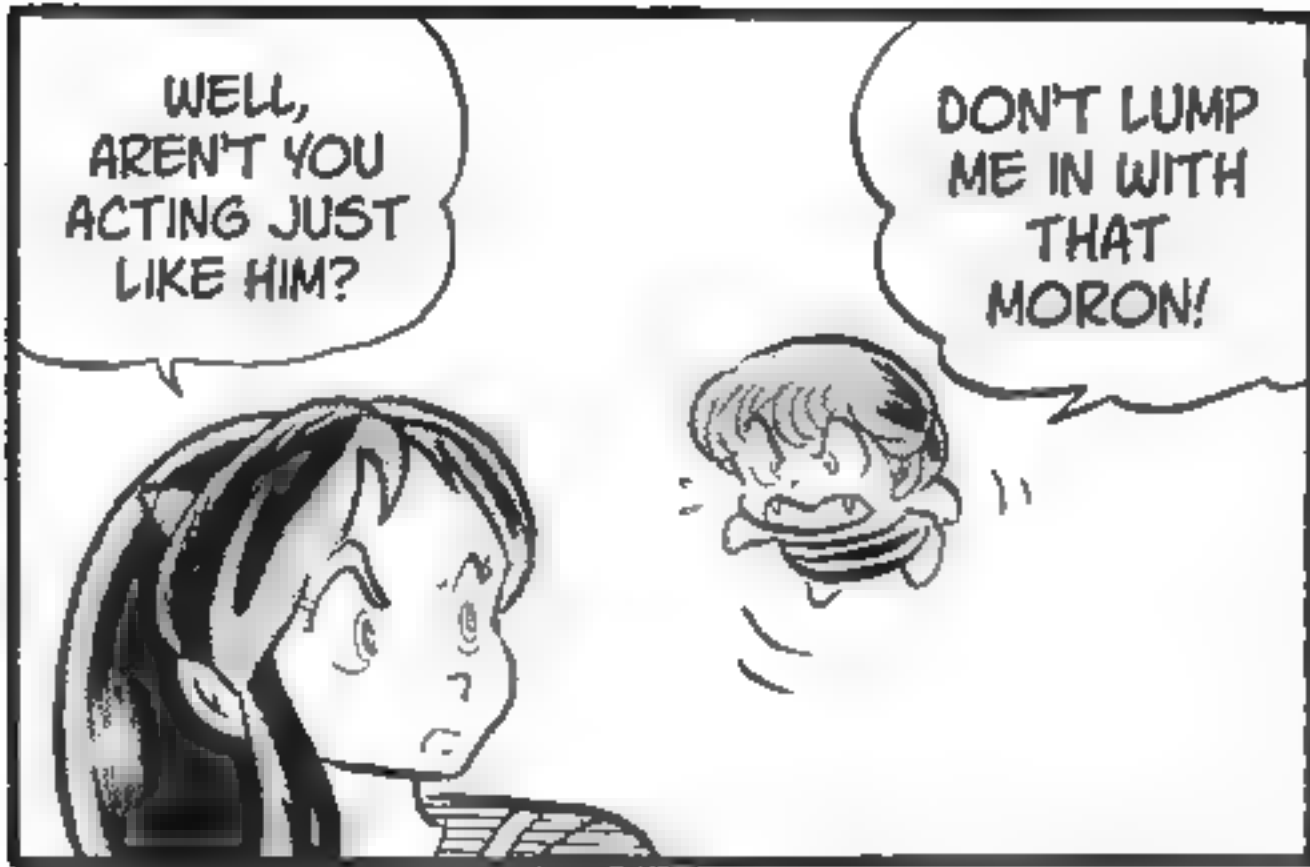


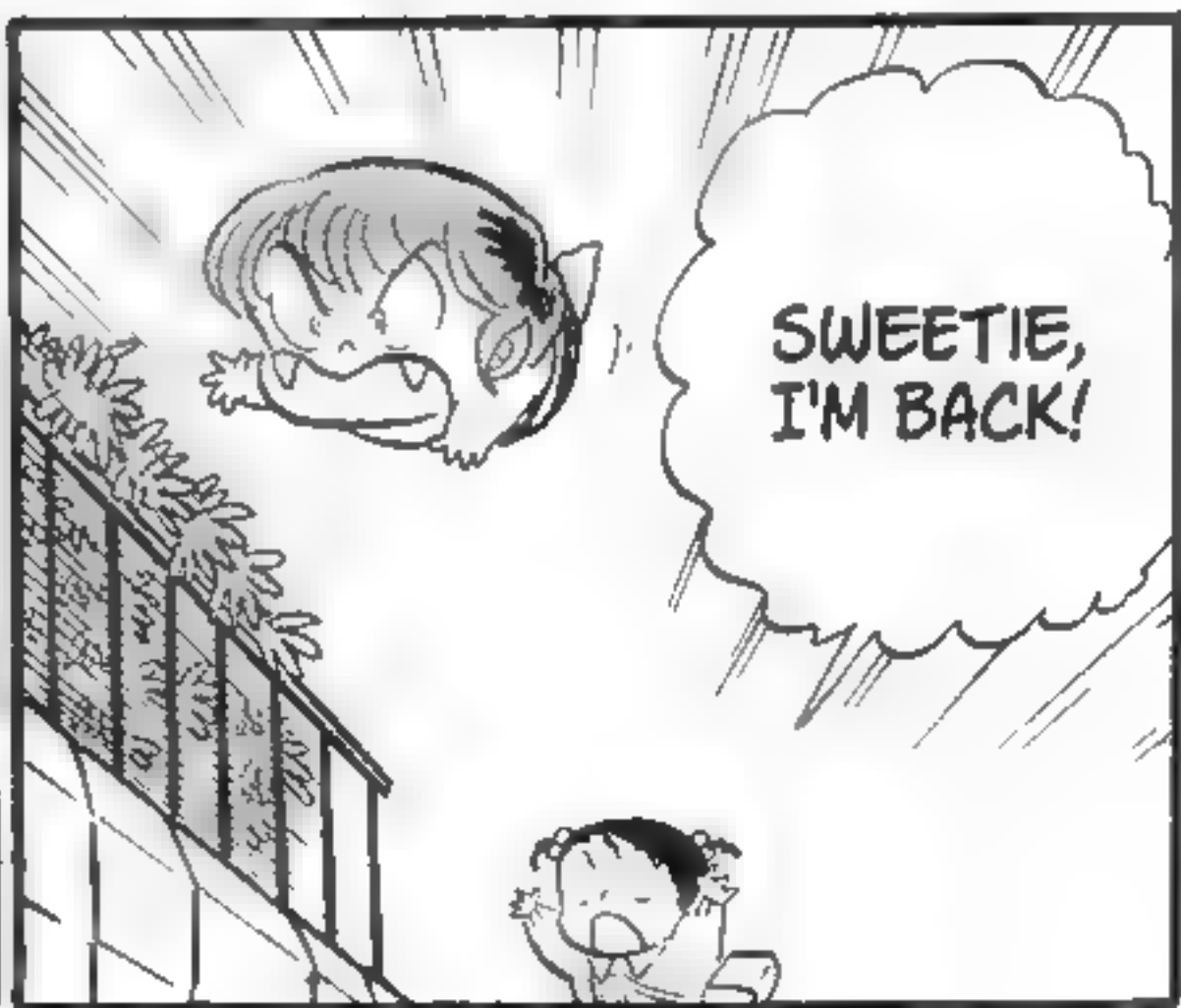
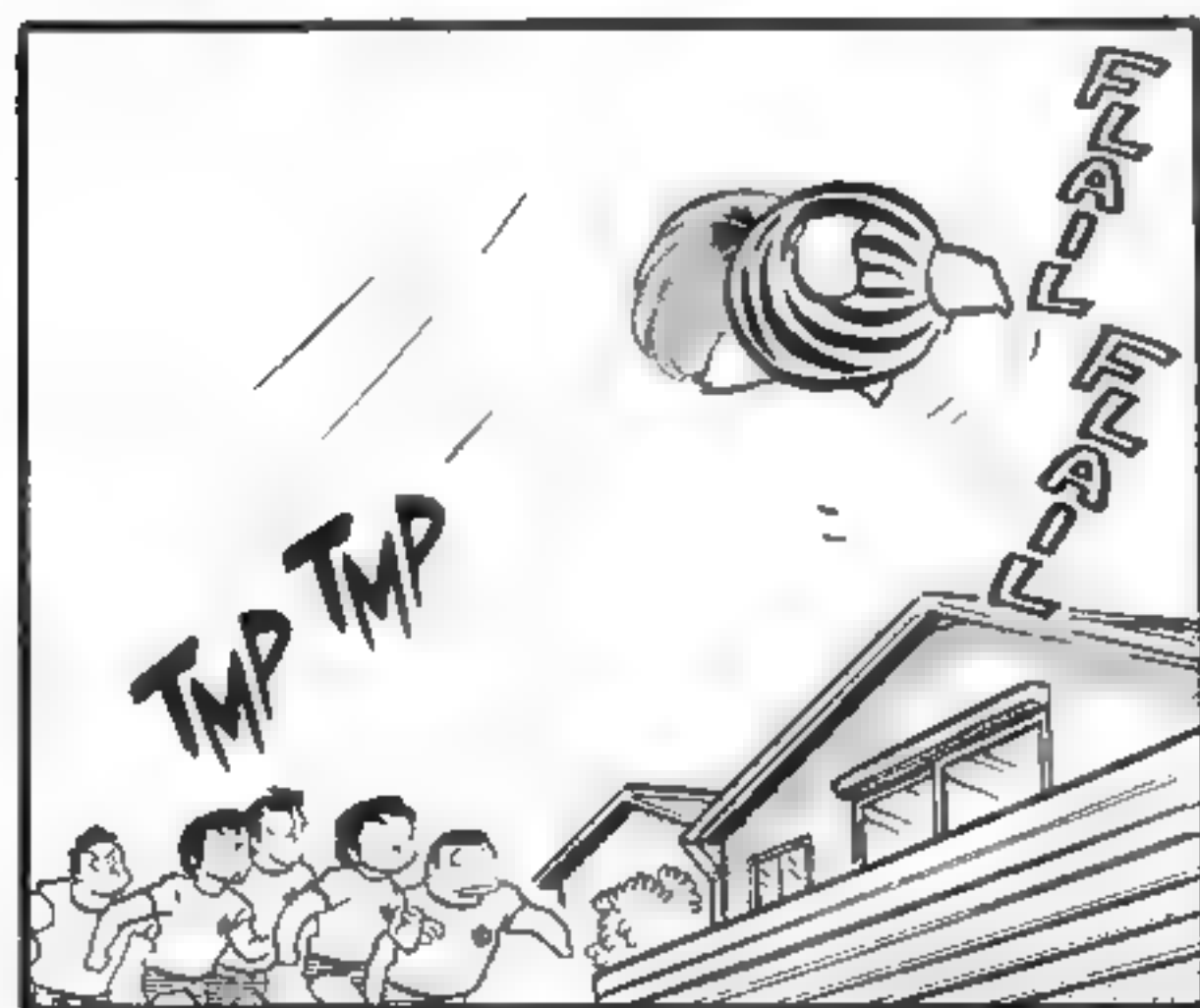
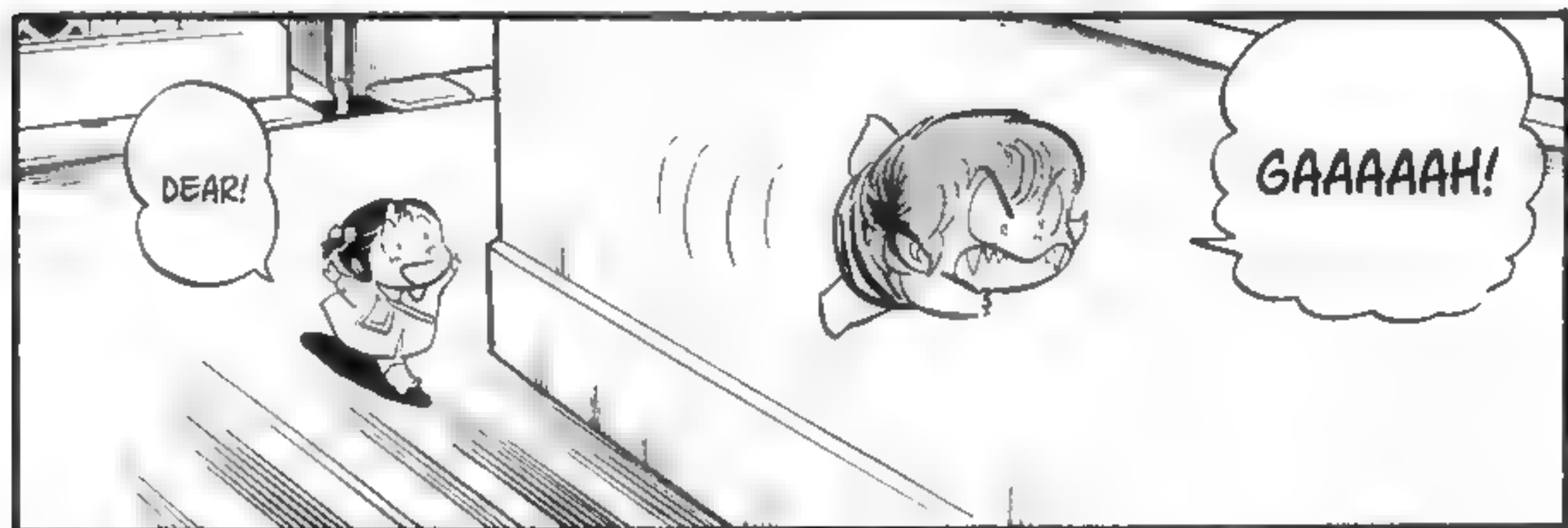
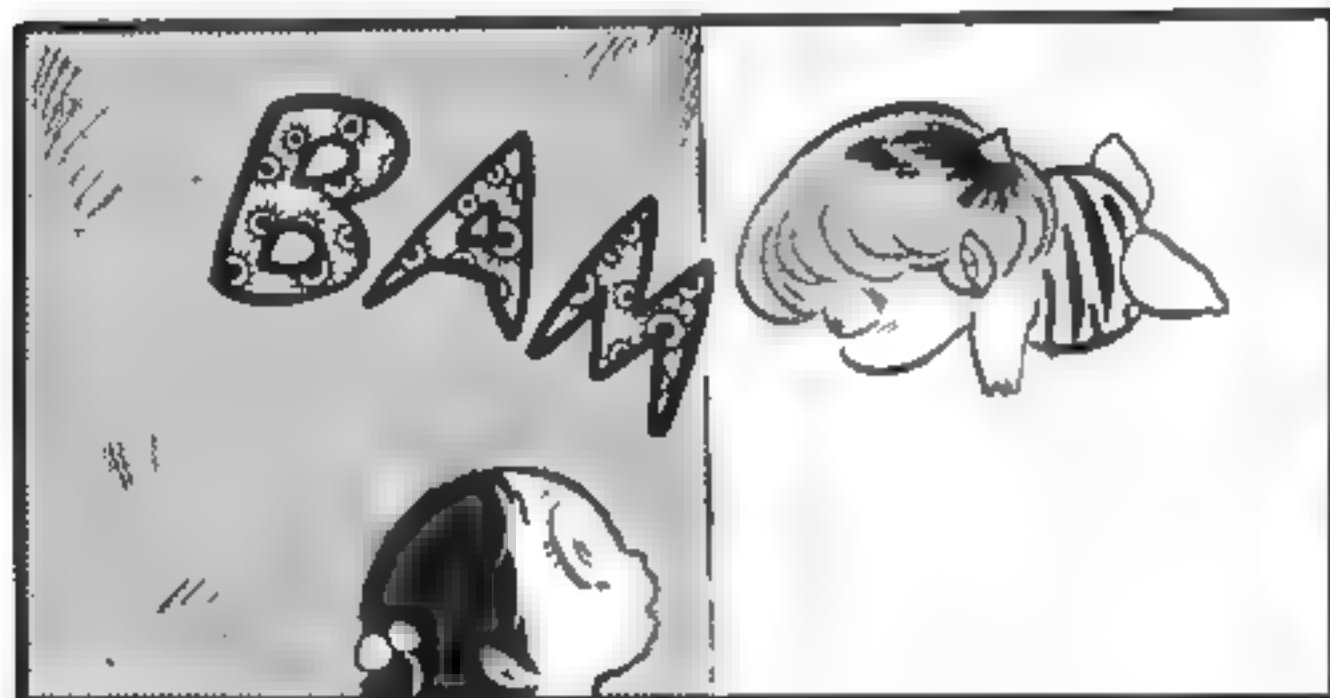
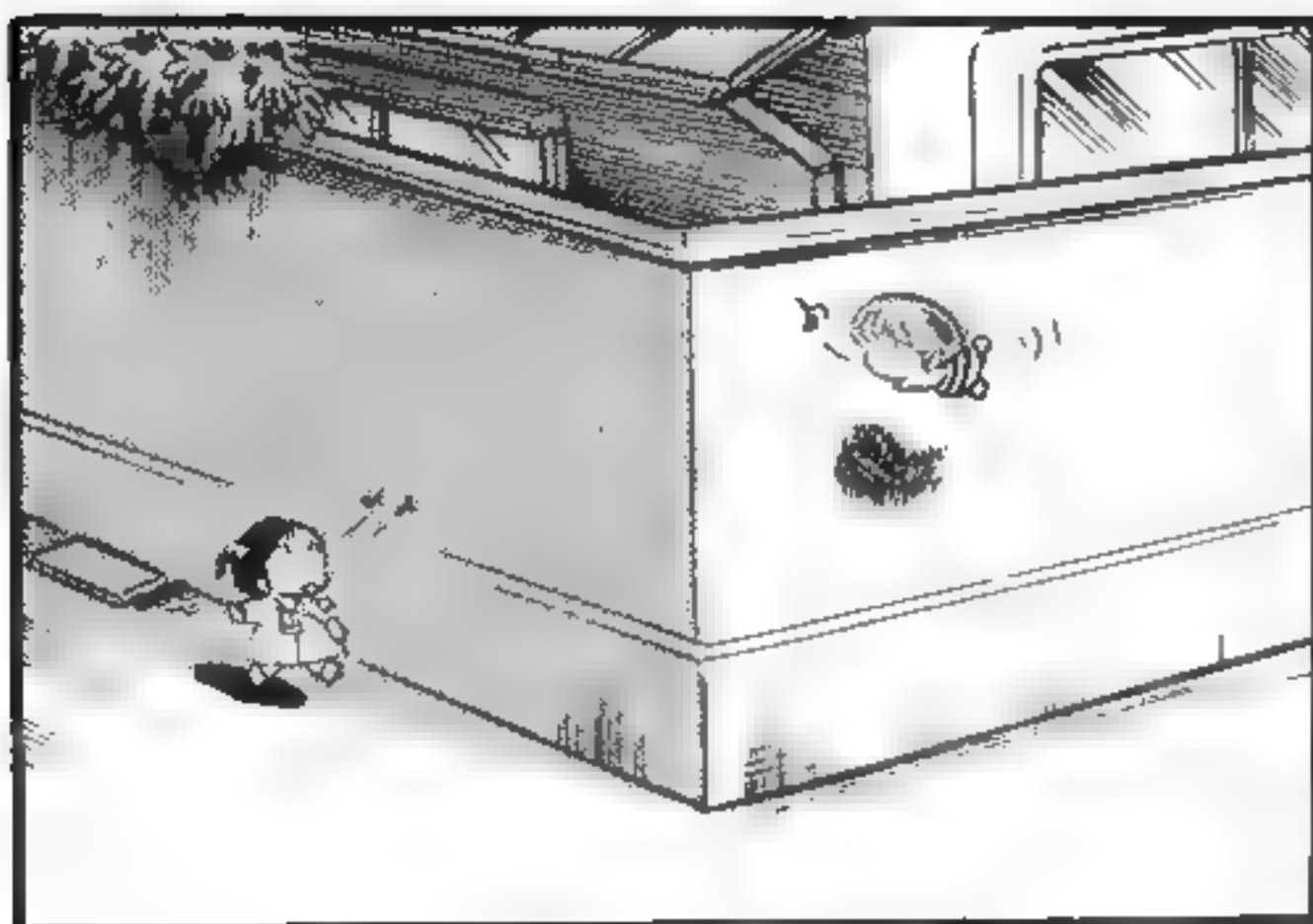


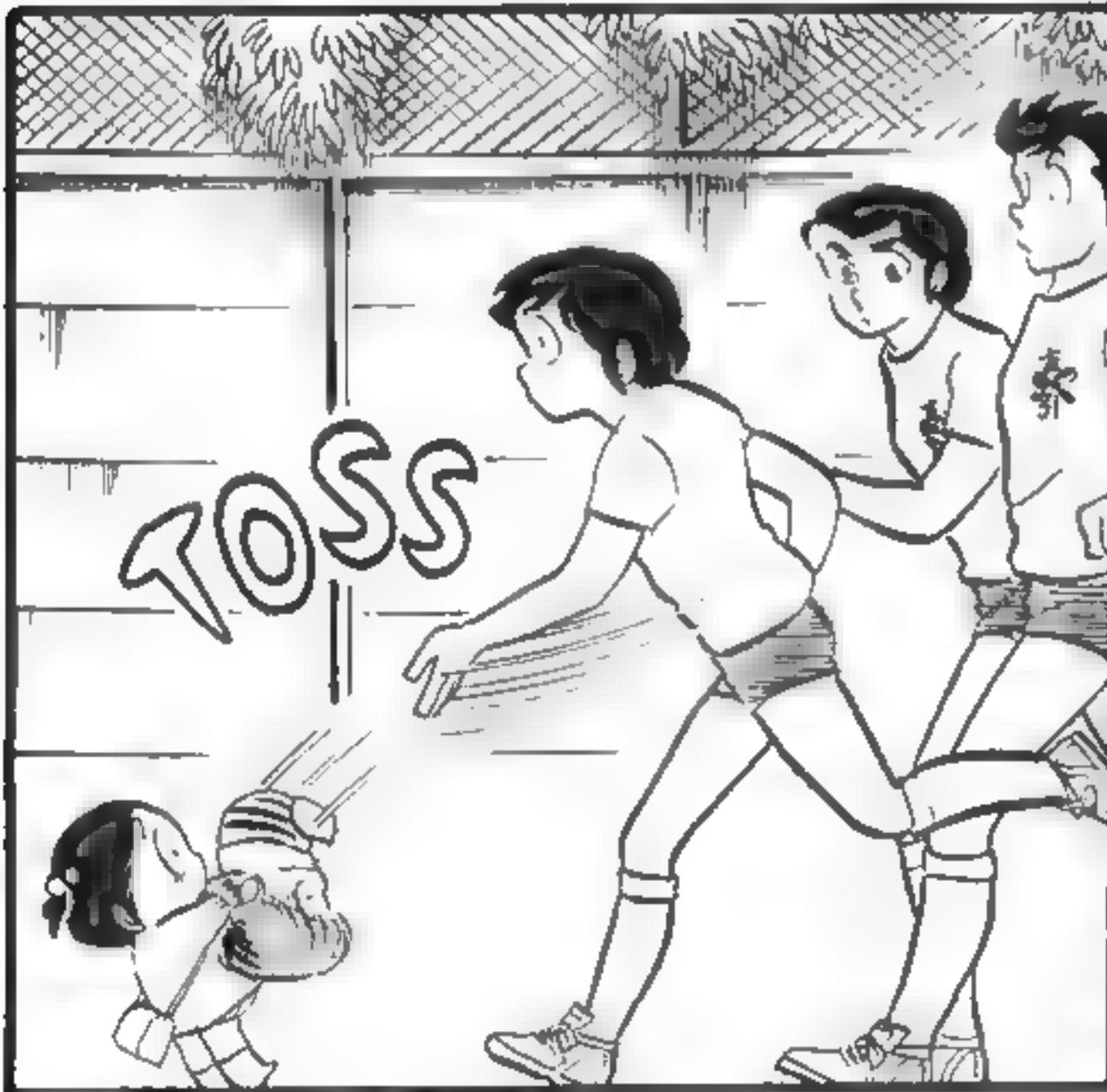
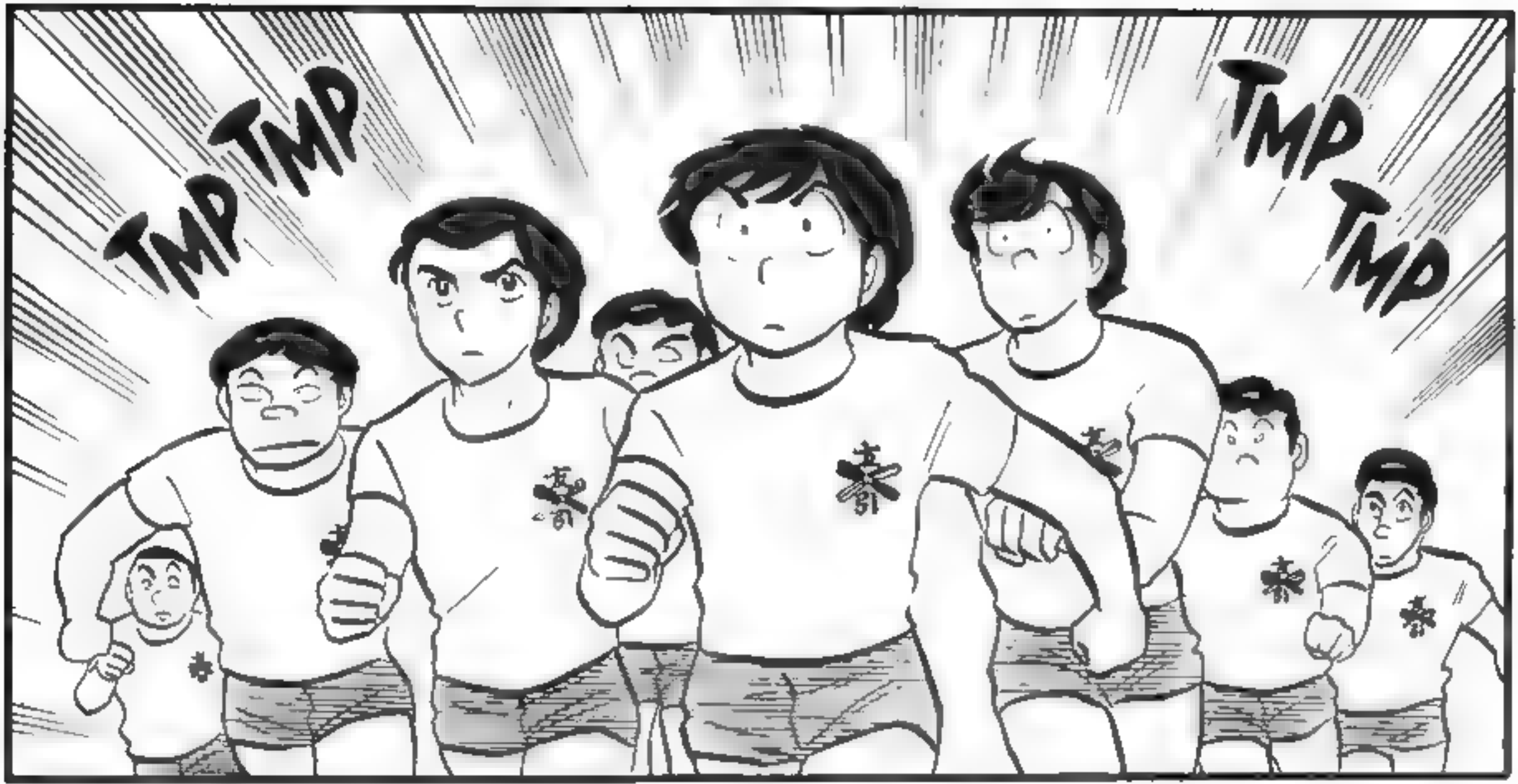


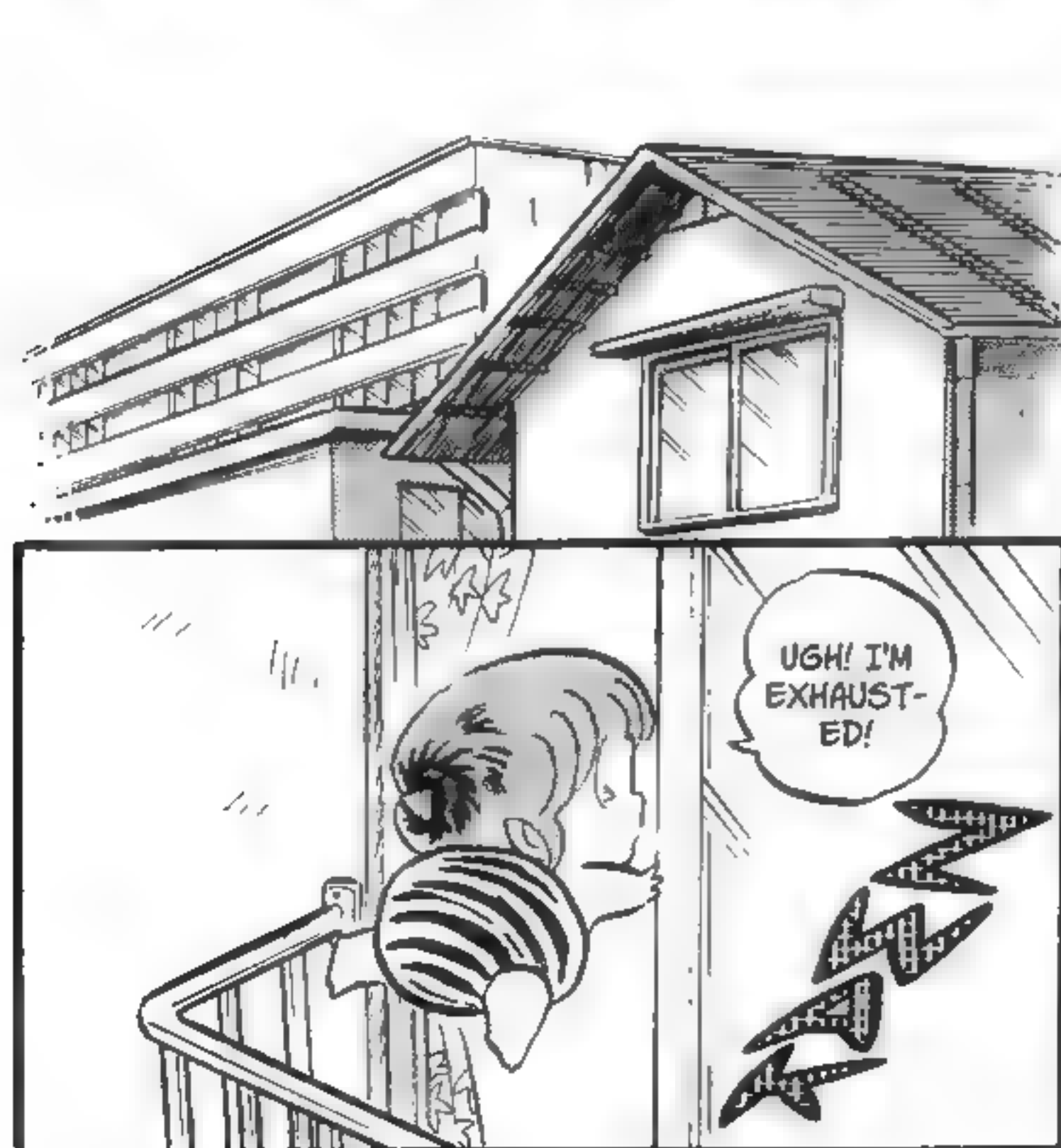
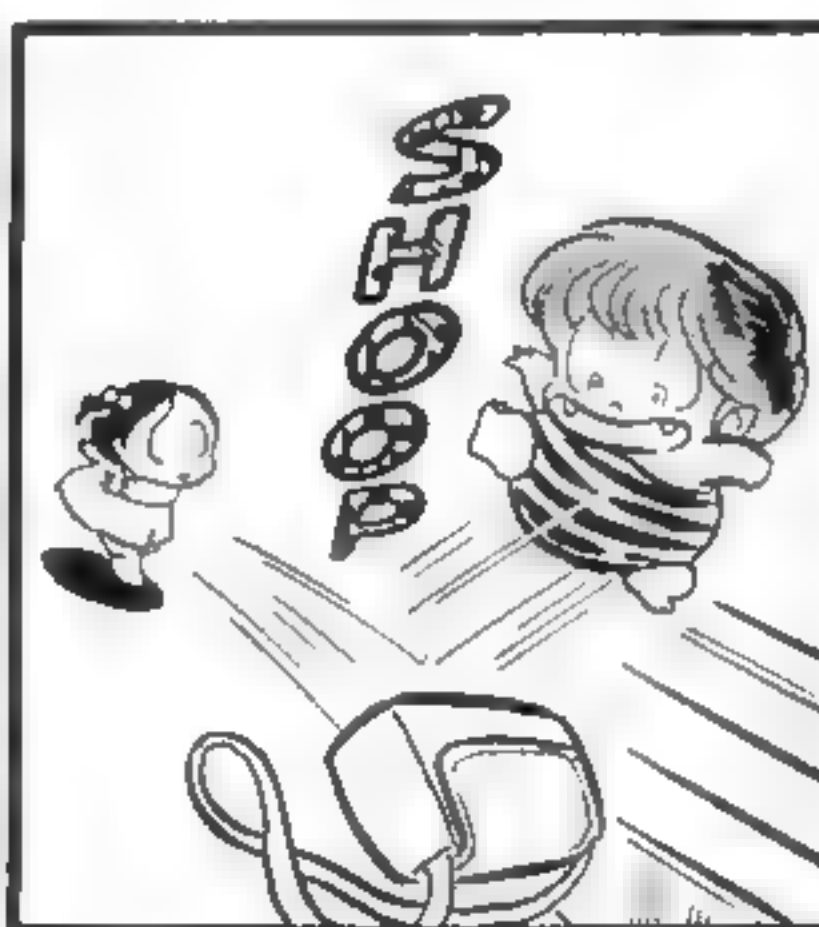




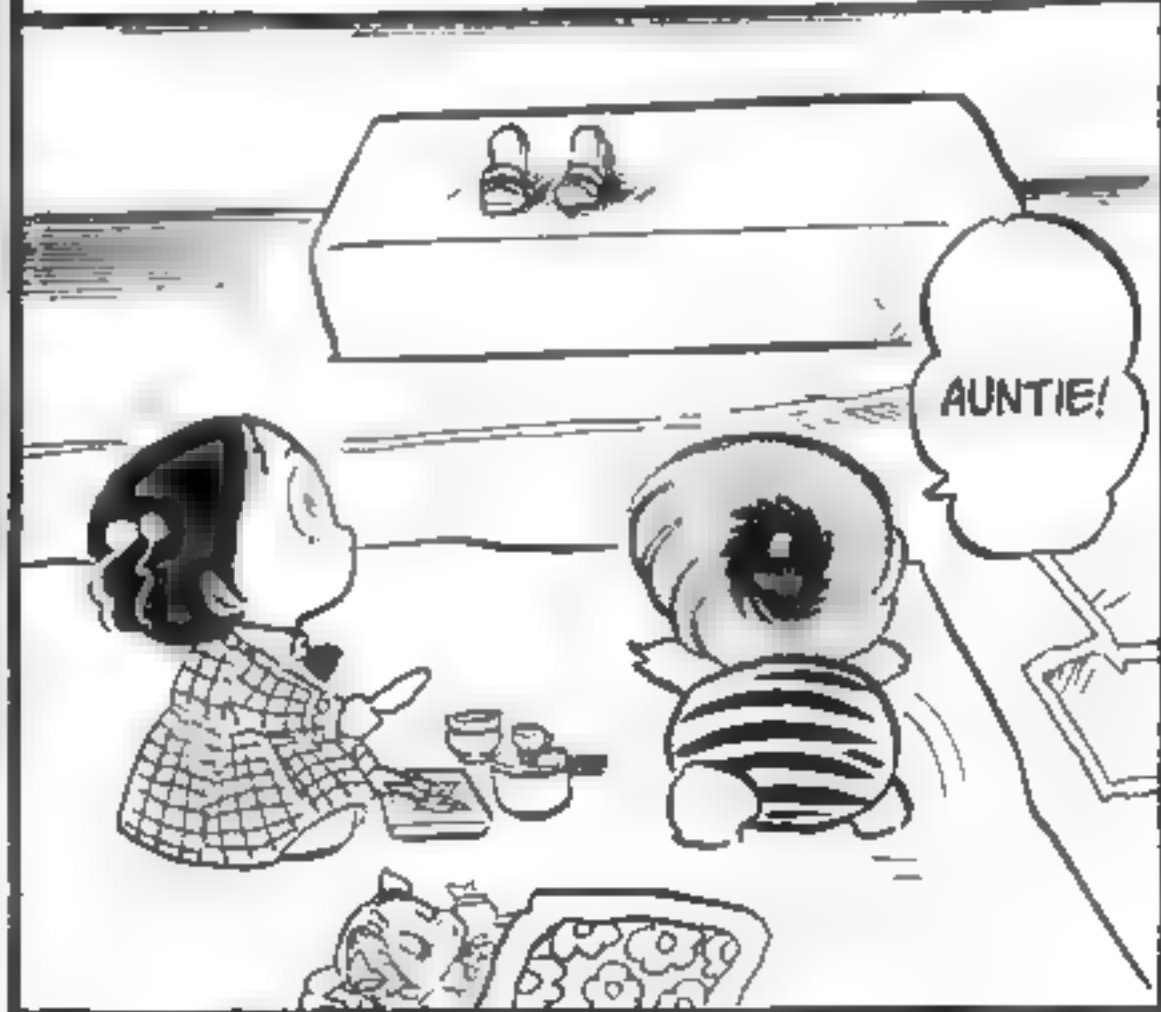
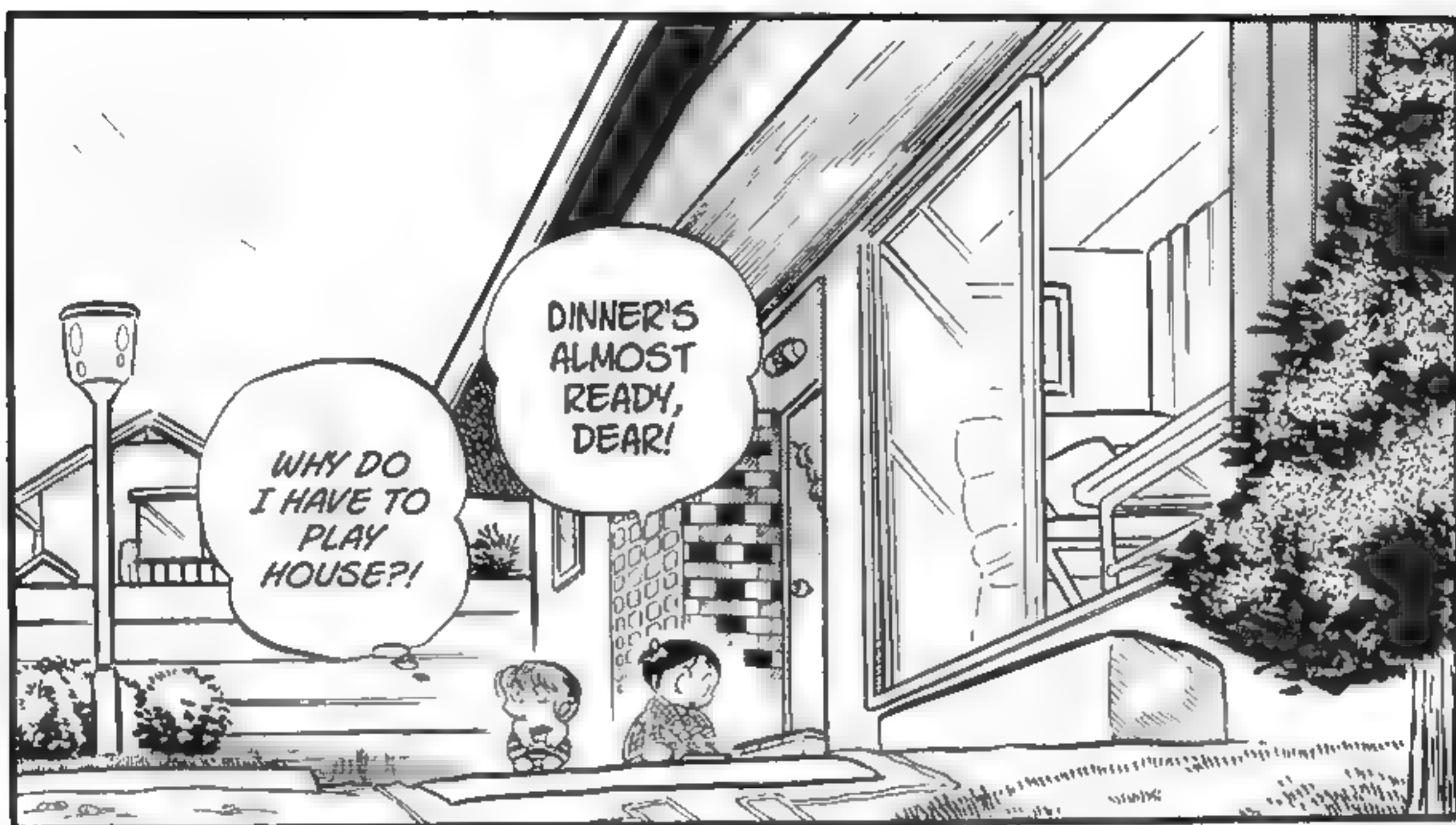




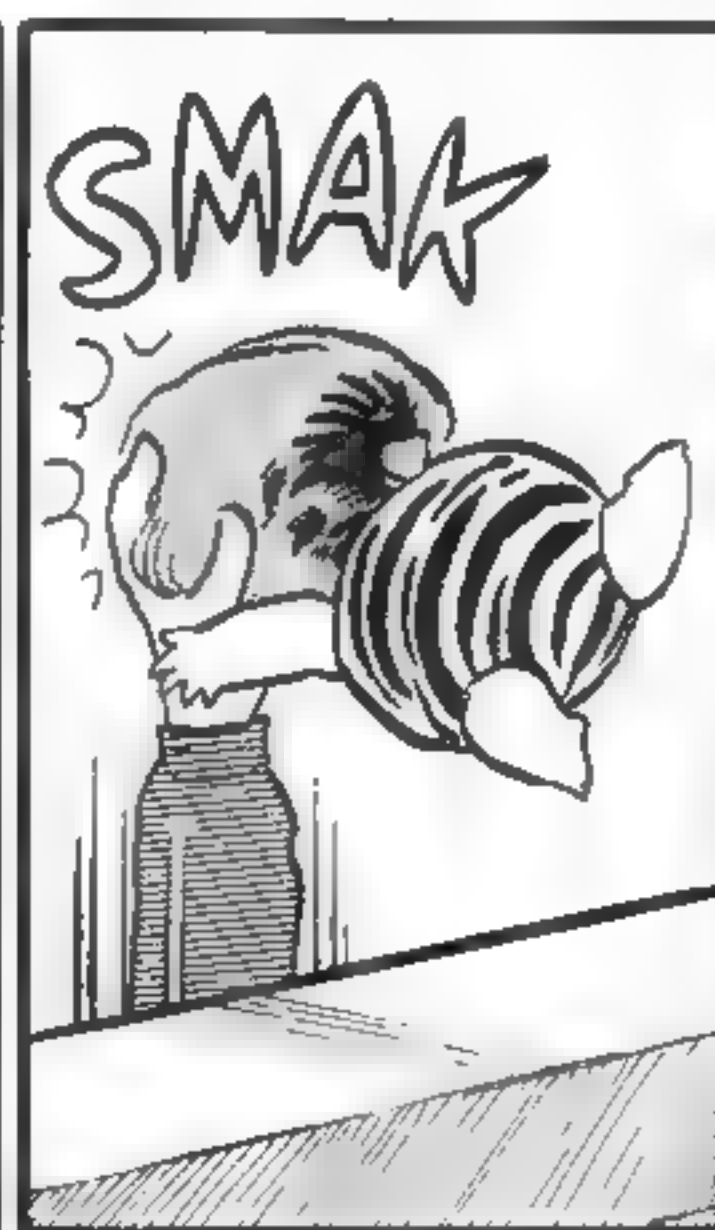
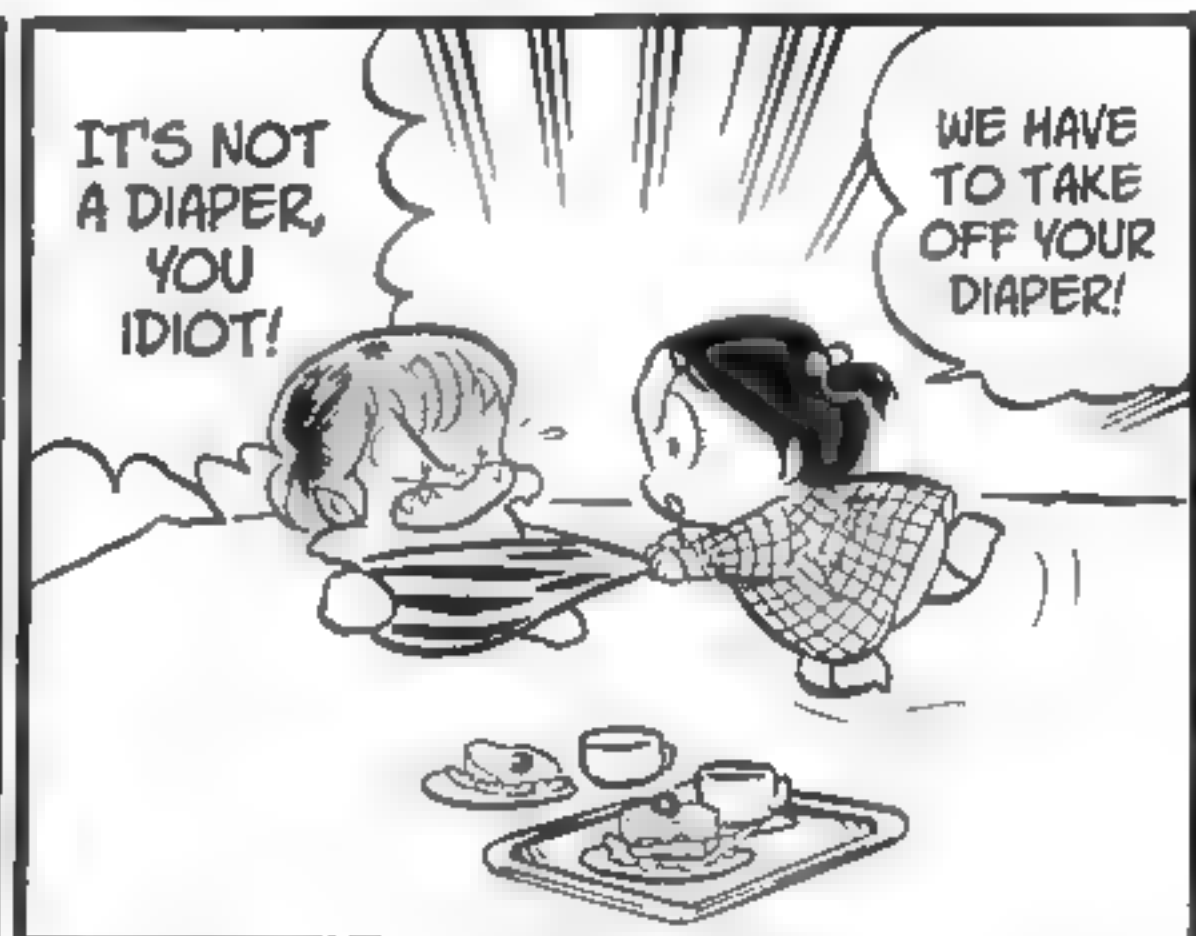
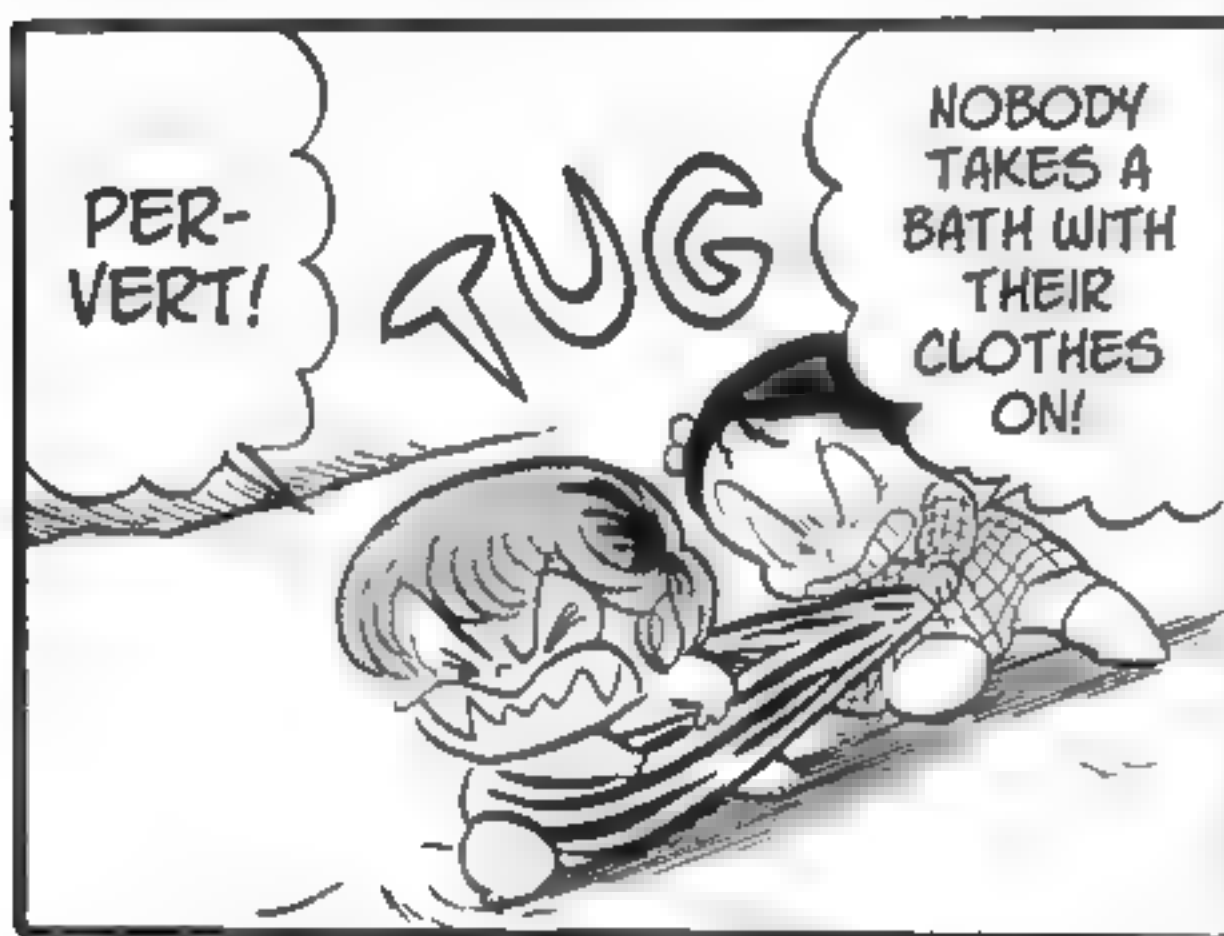




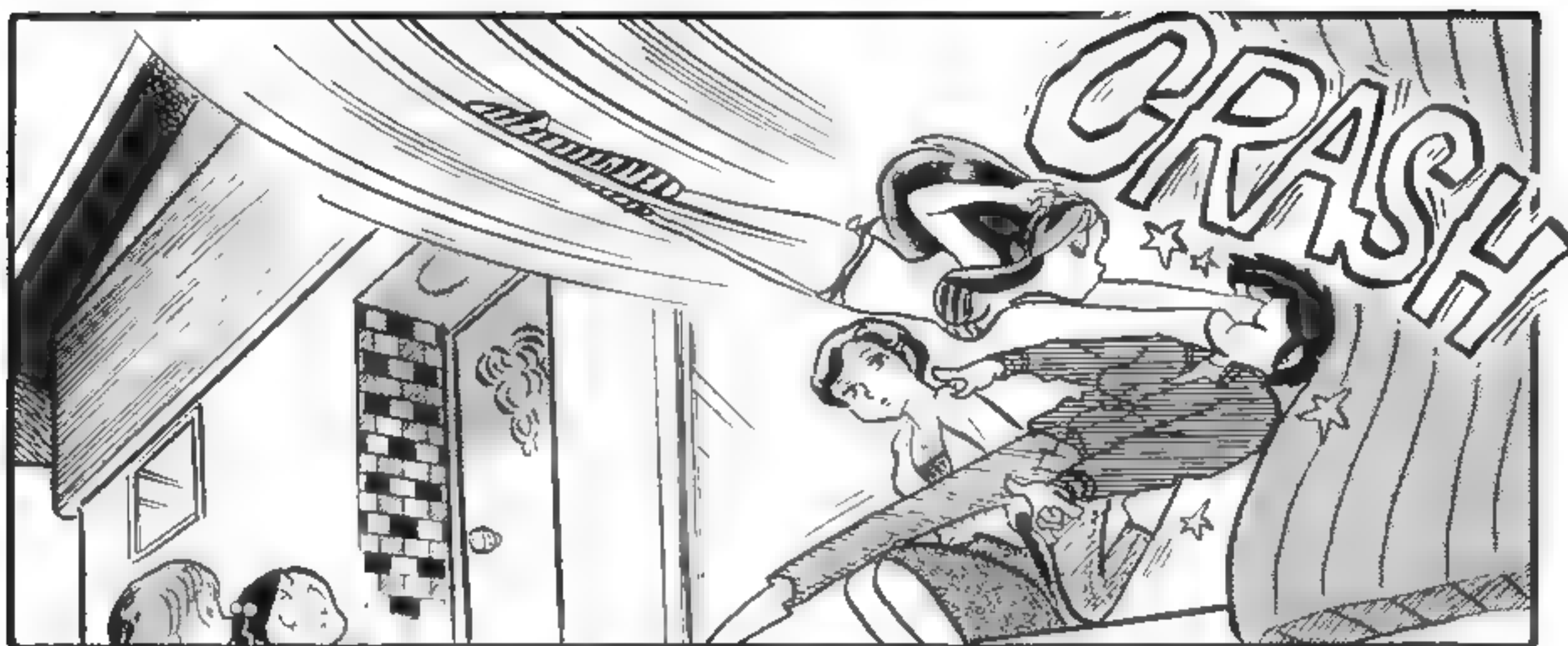




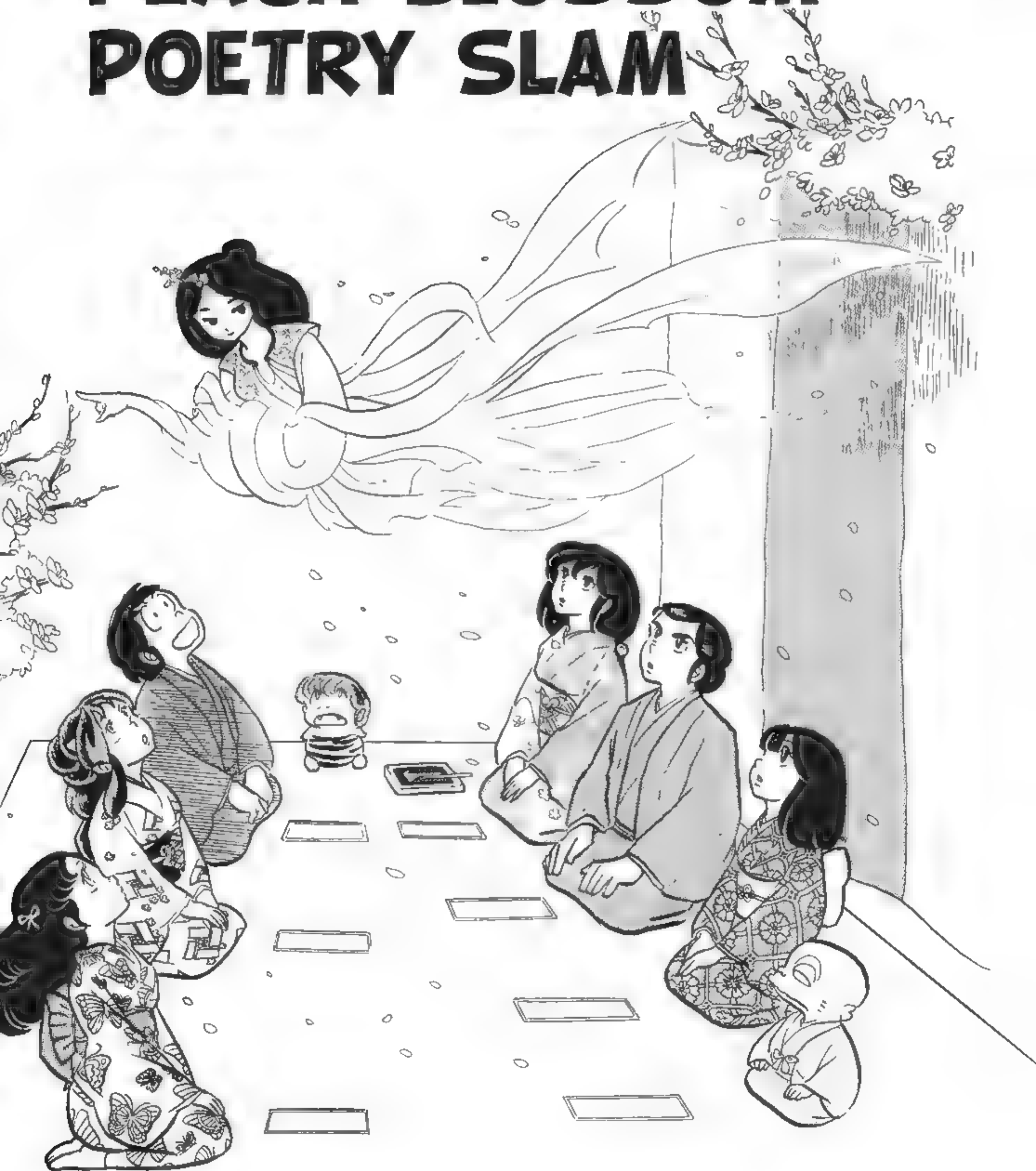


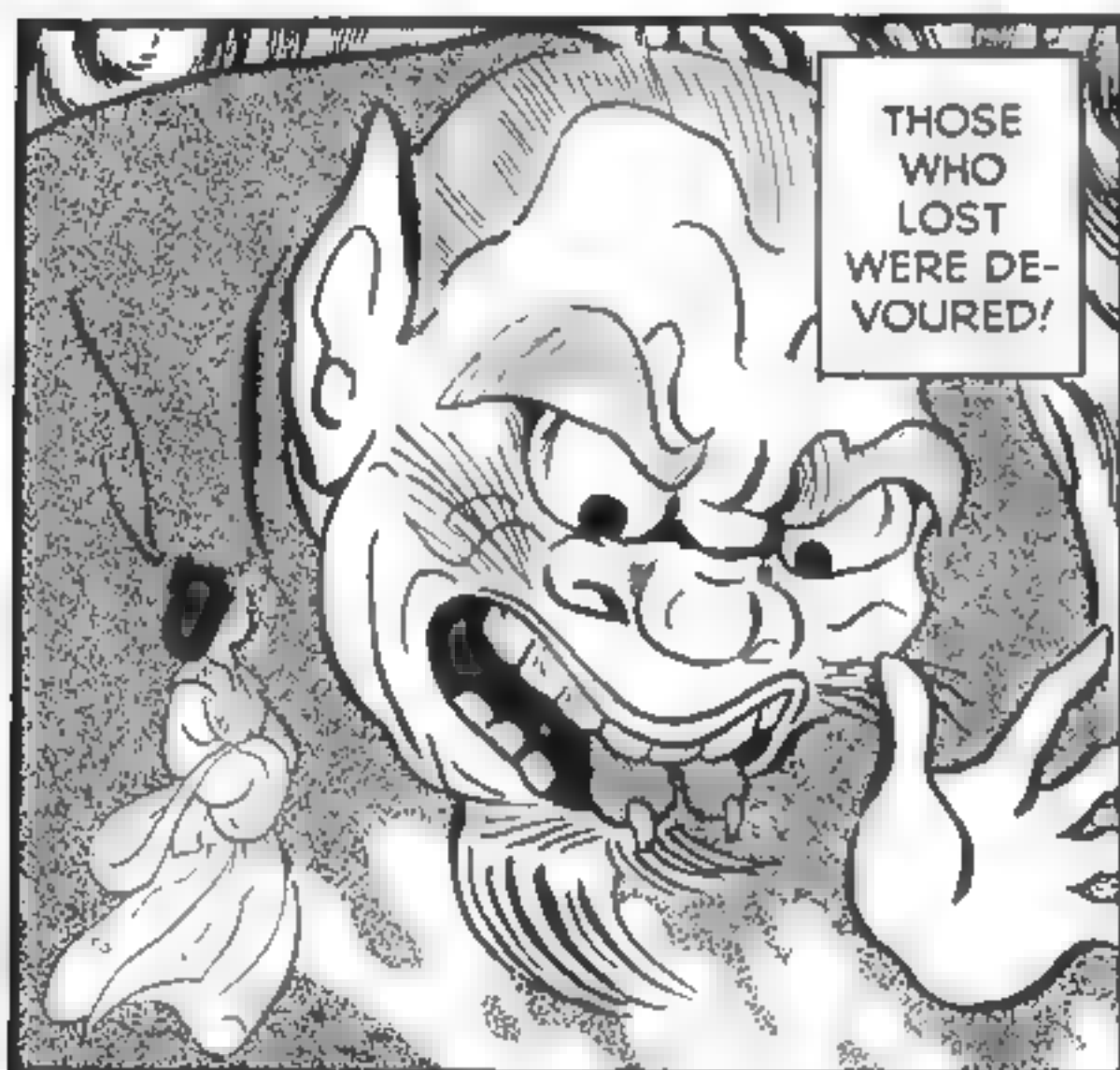
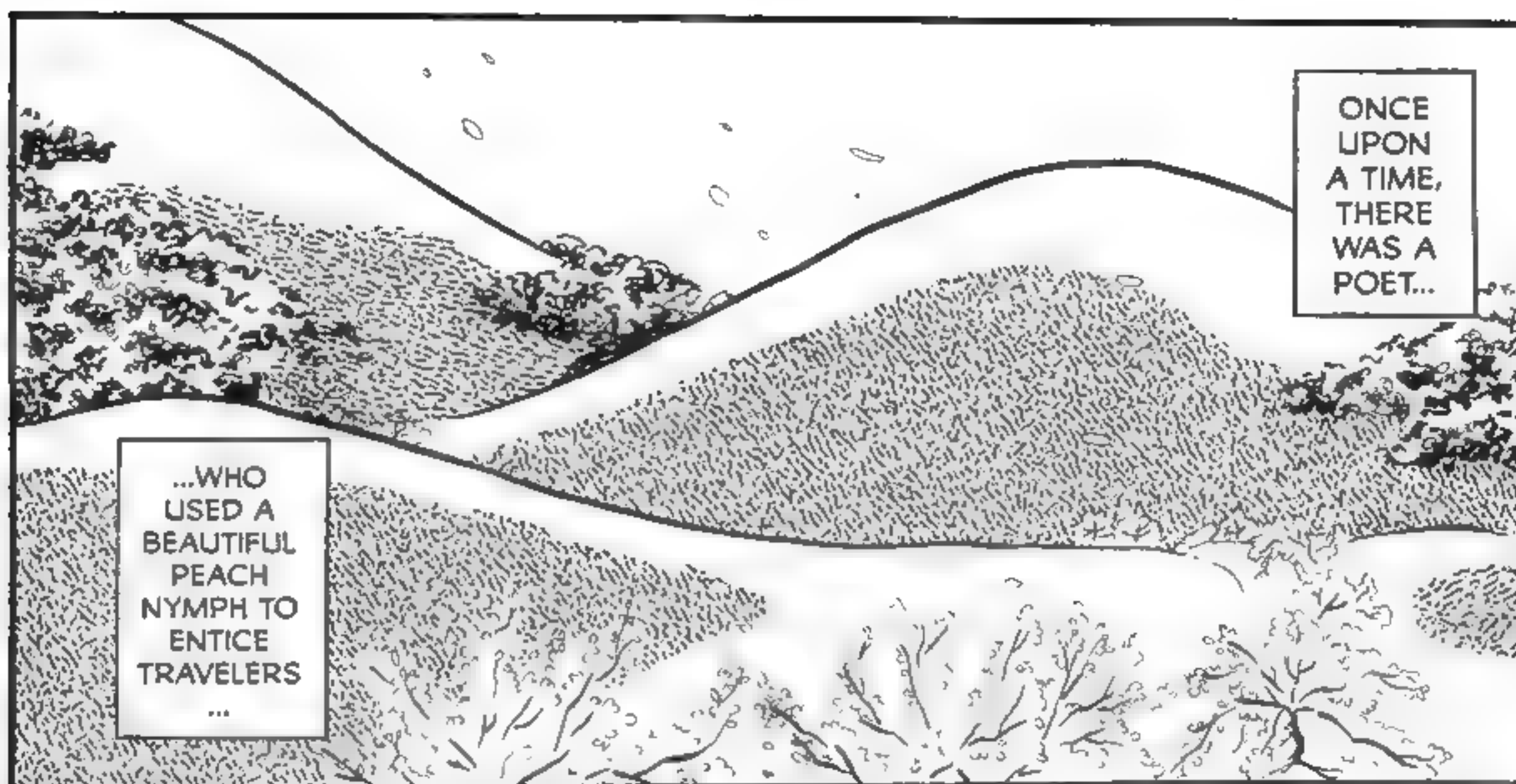




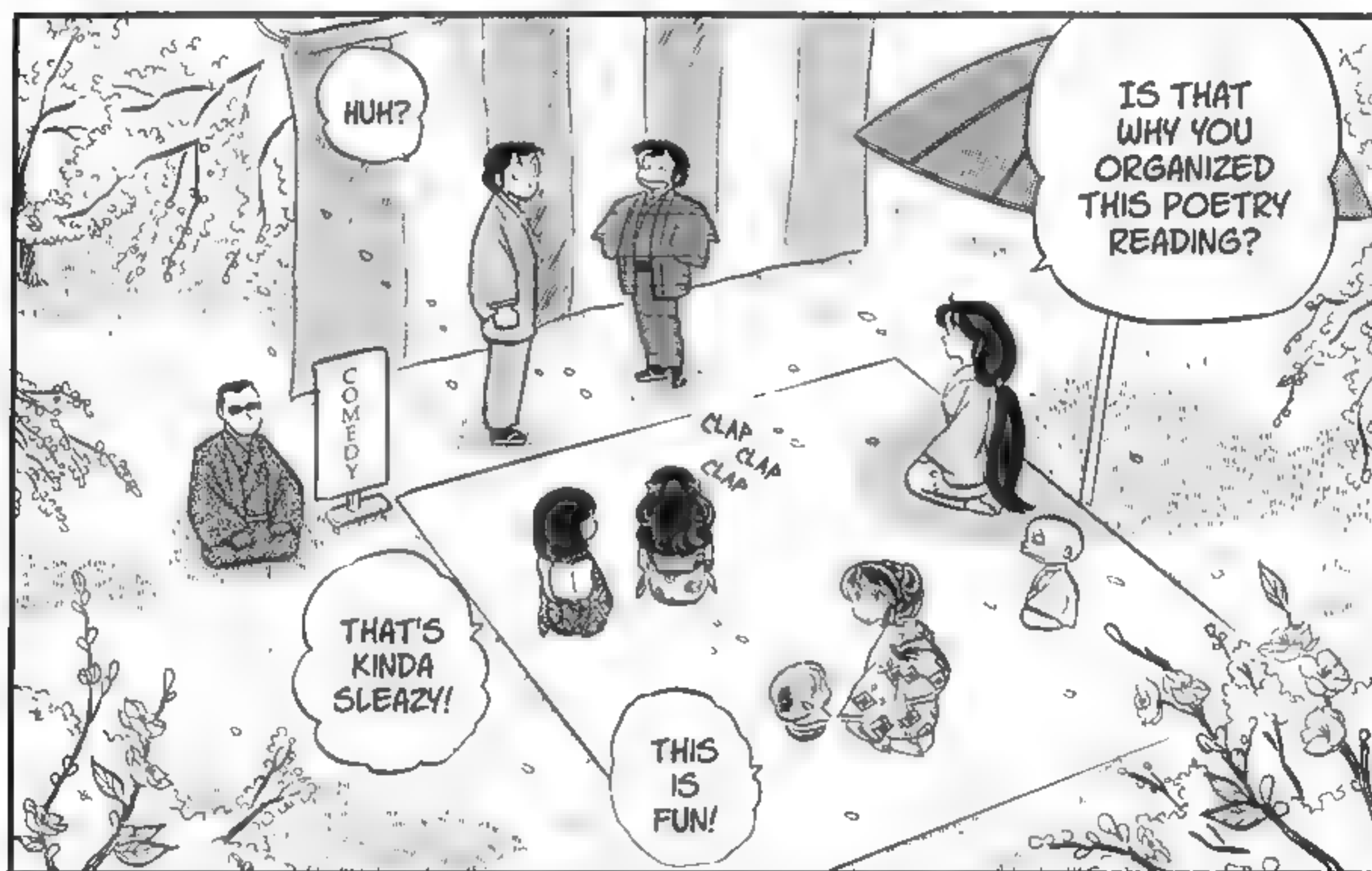


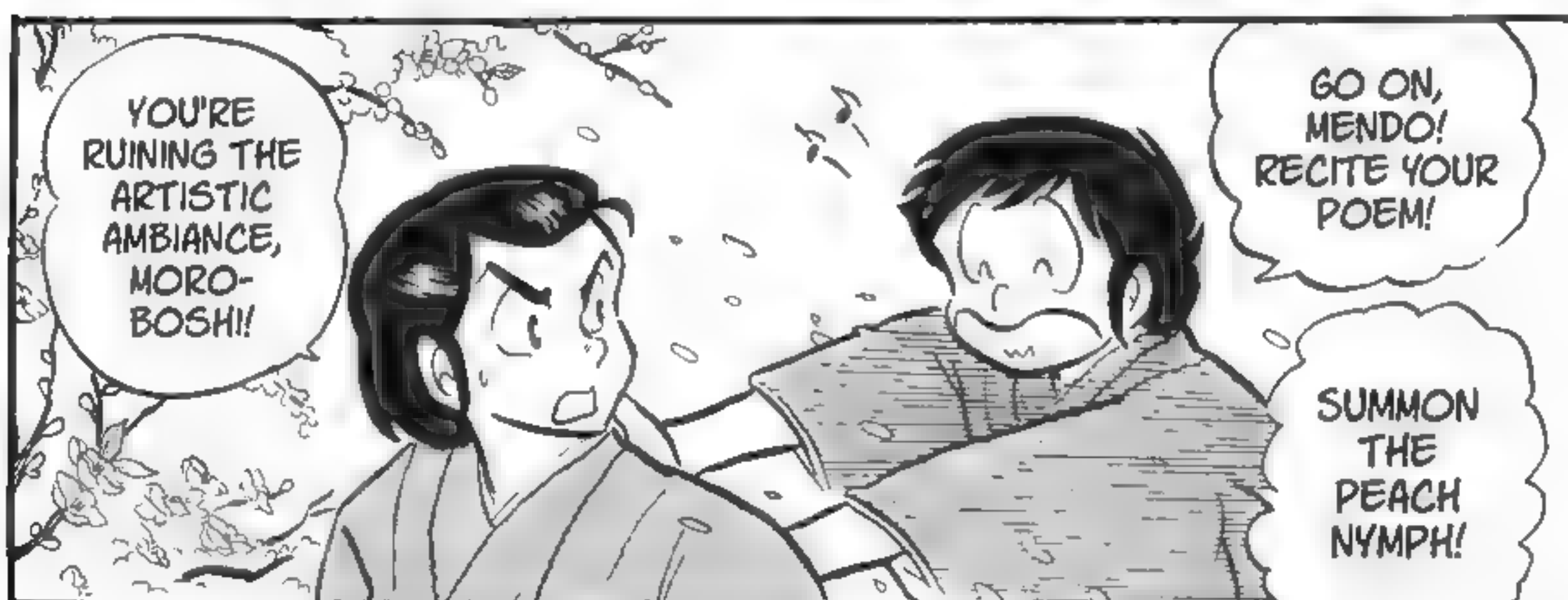
CHAPTER 13: PEACH BLOSSOM POETRY SLAM

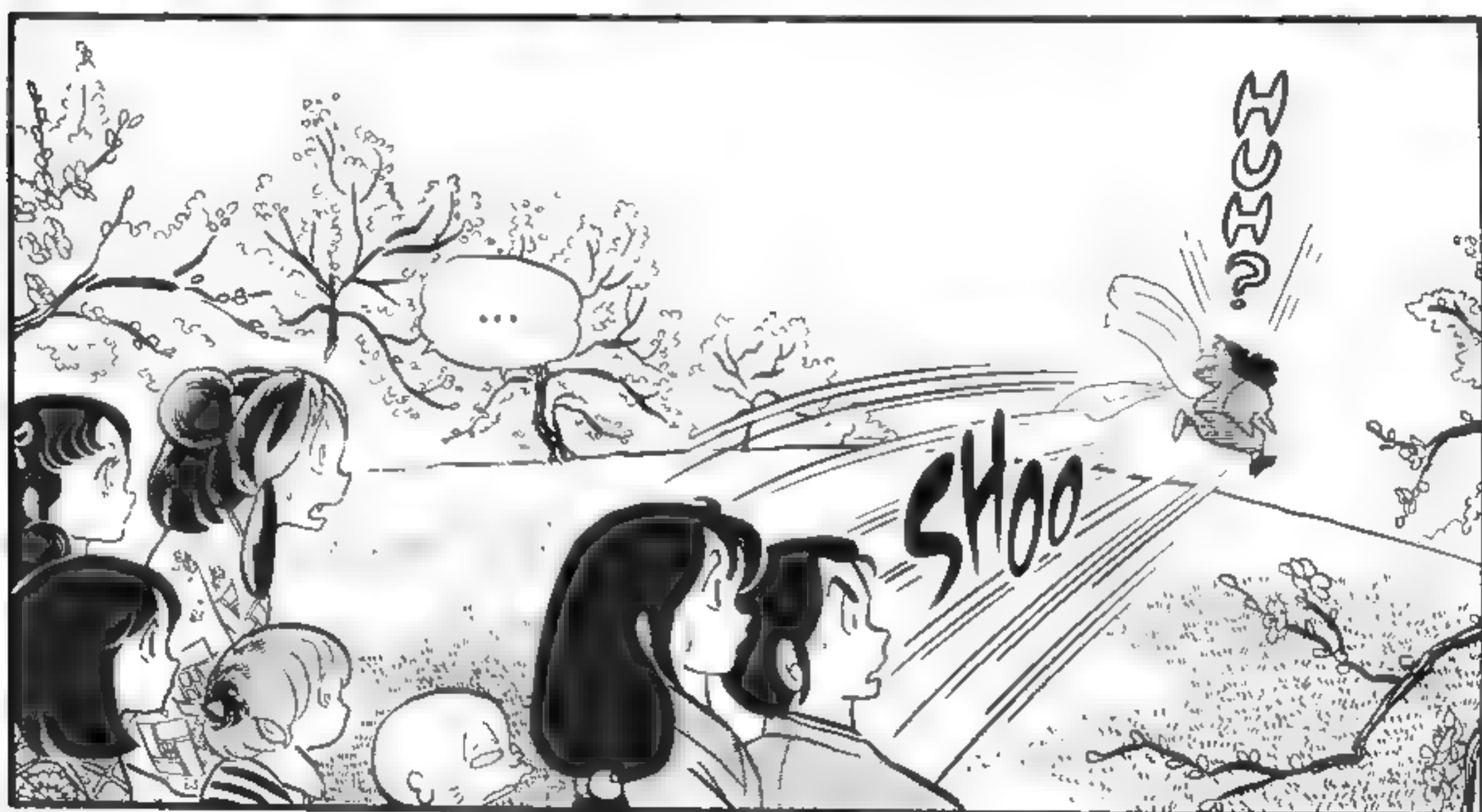




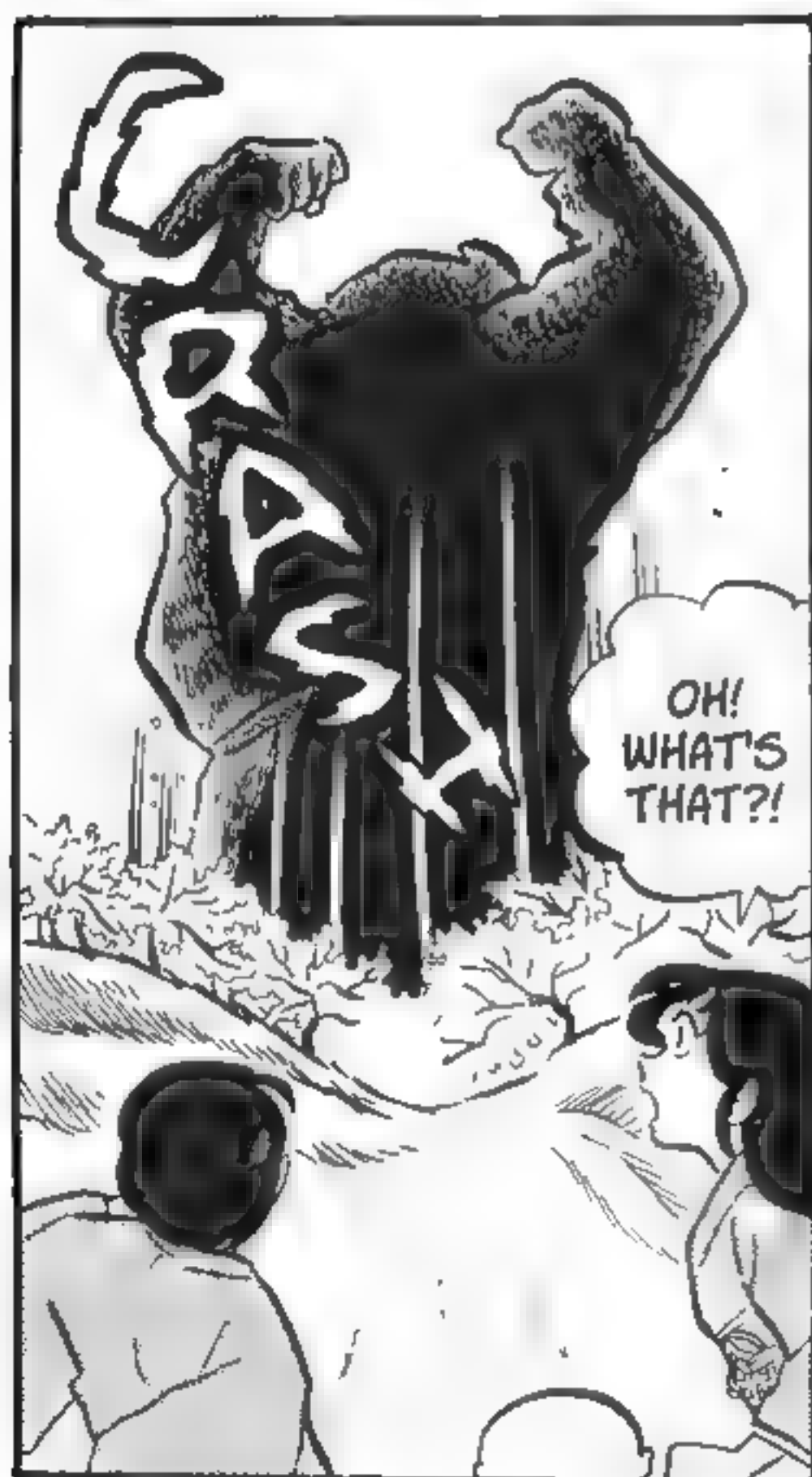




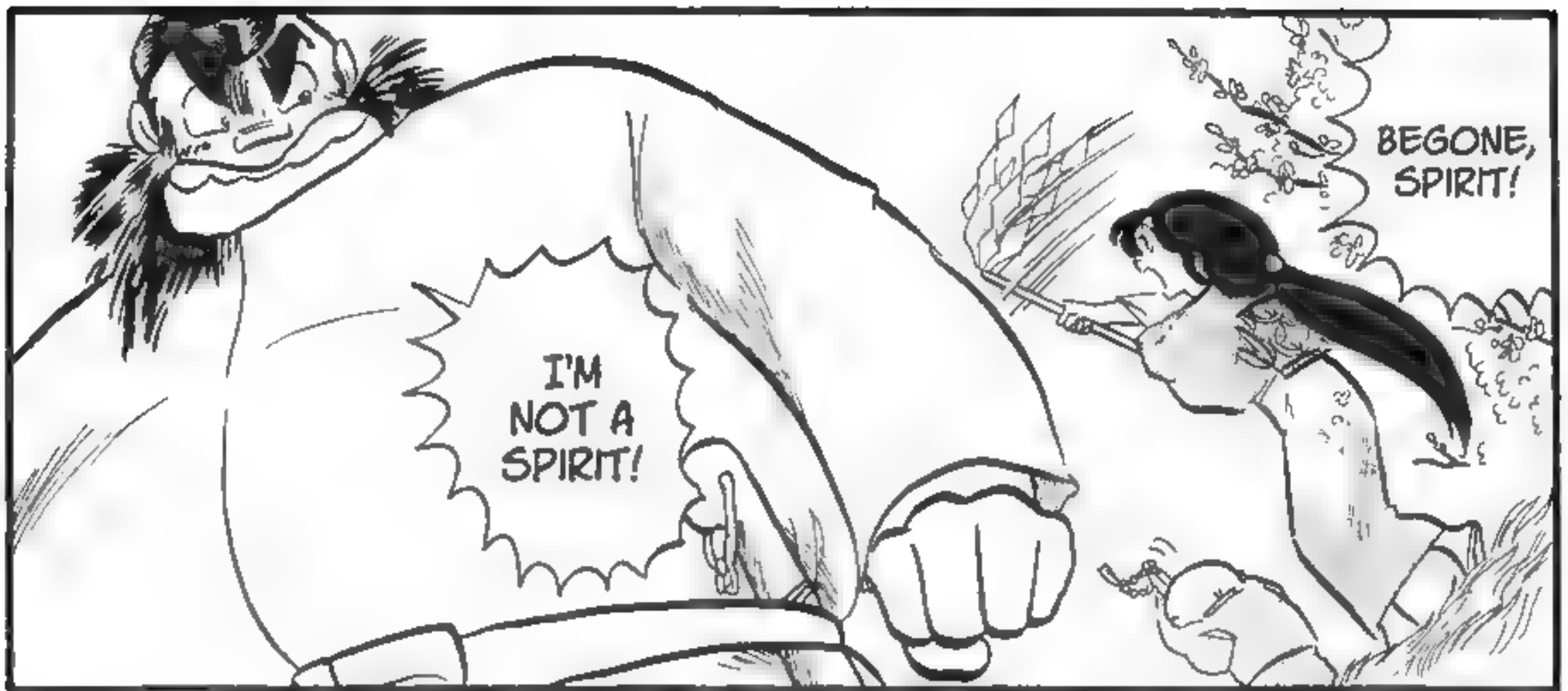


















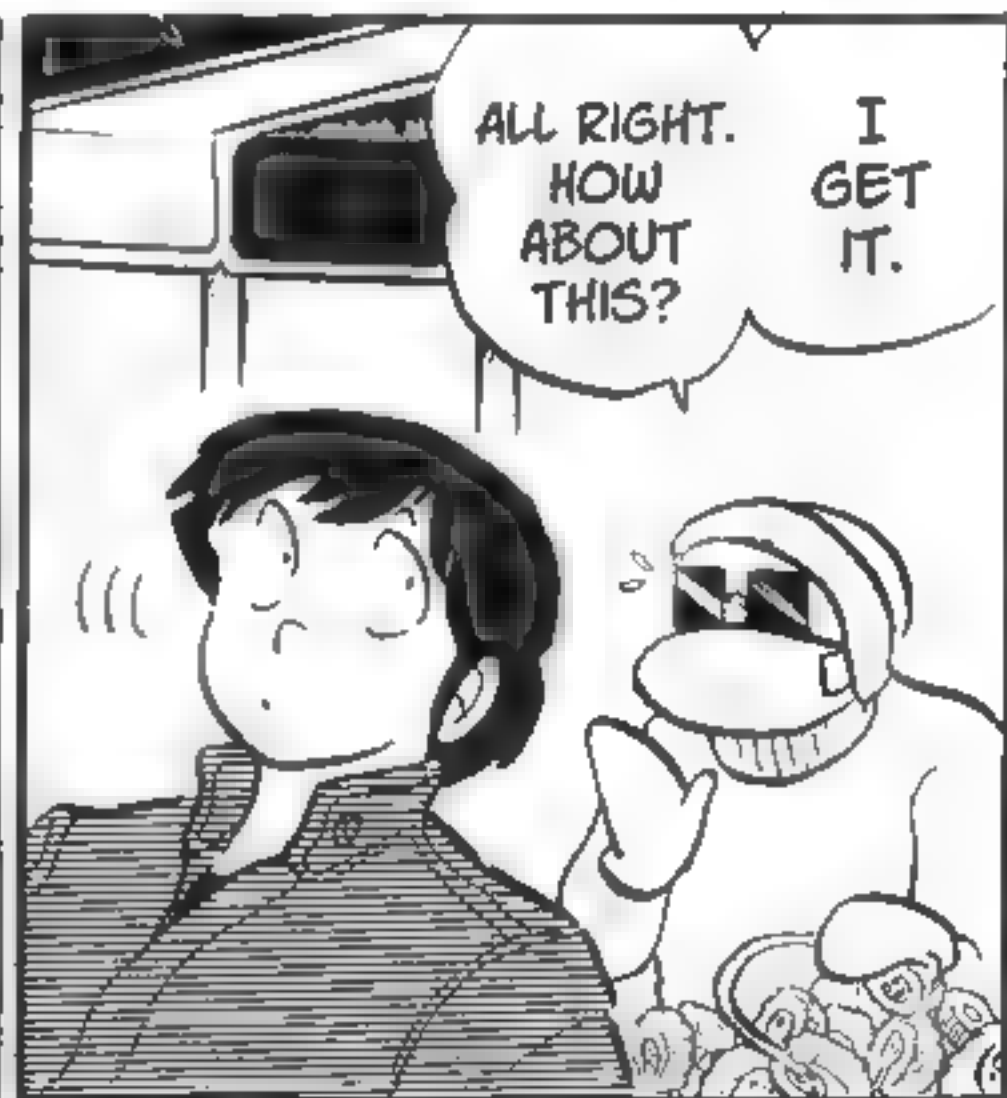
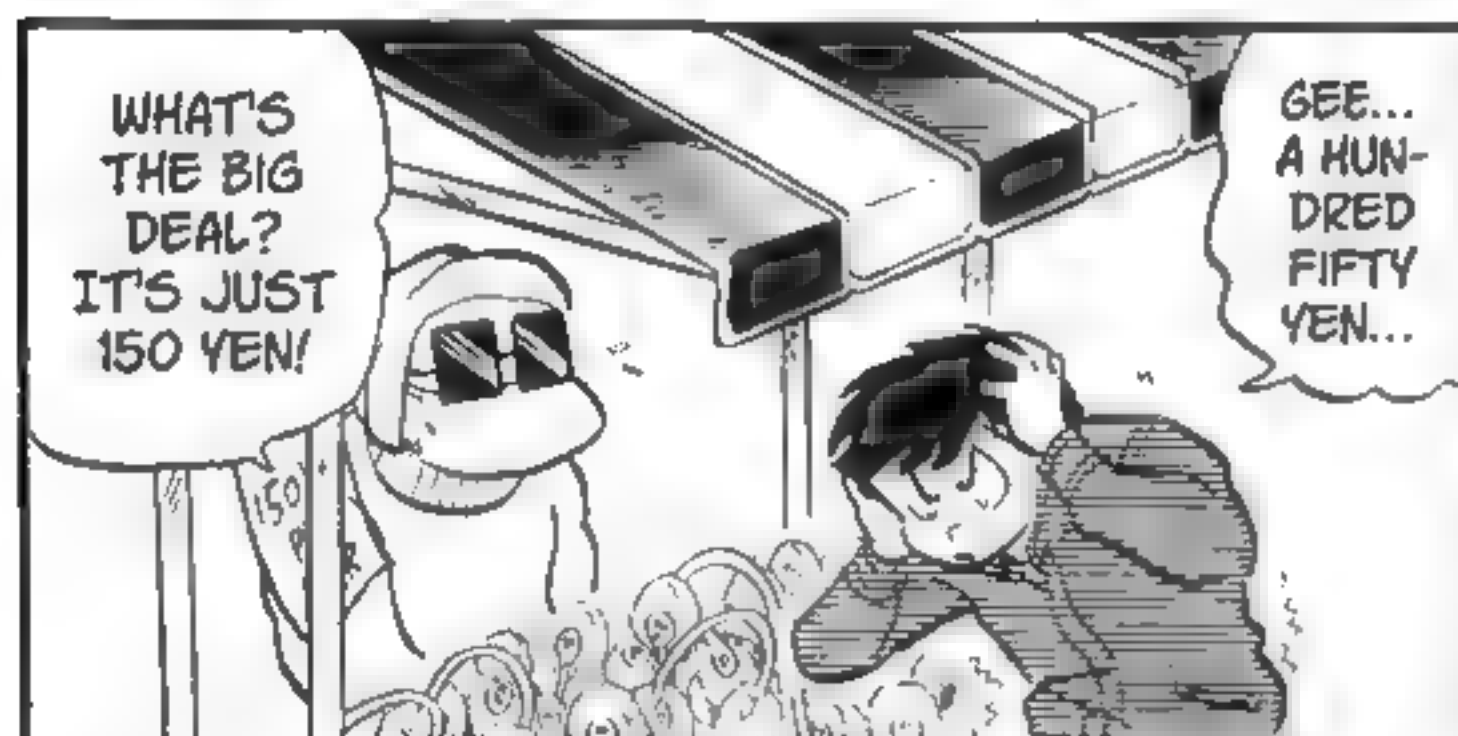


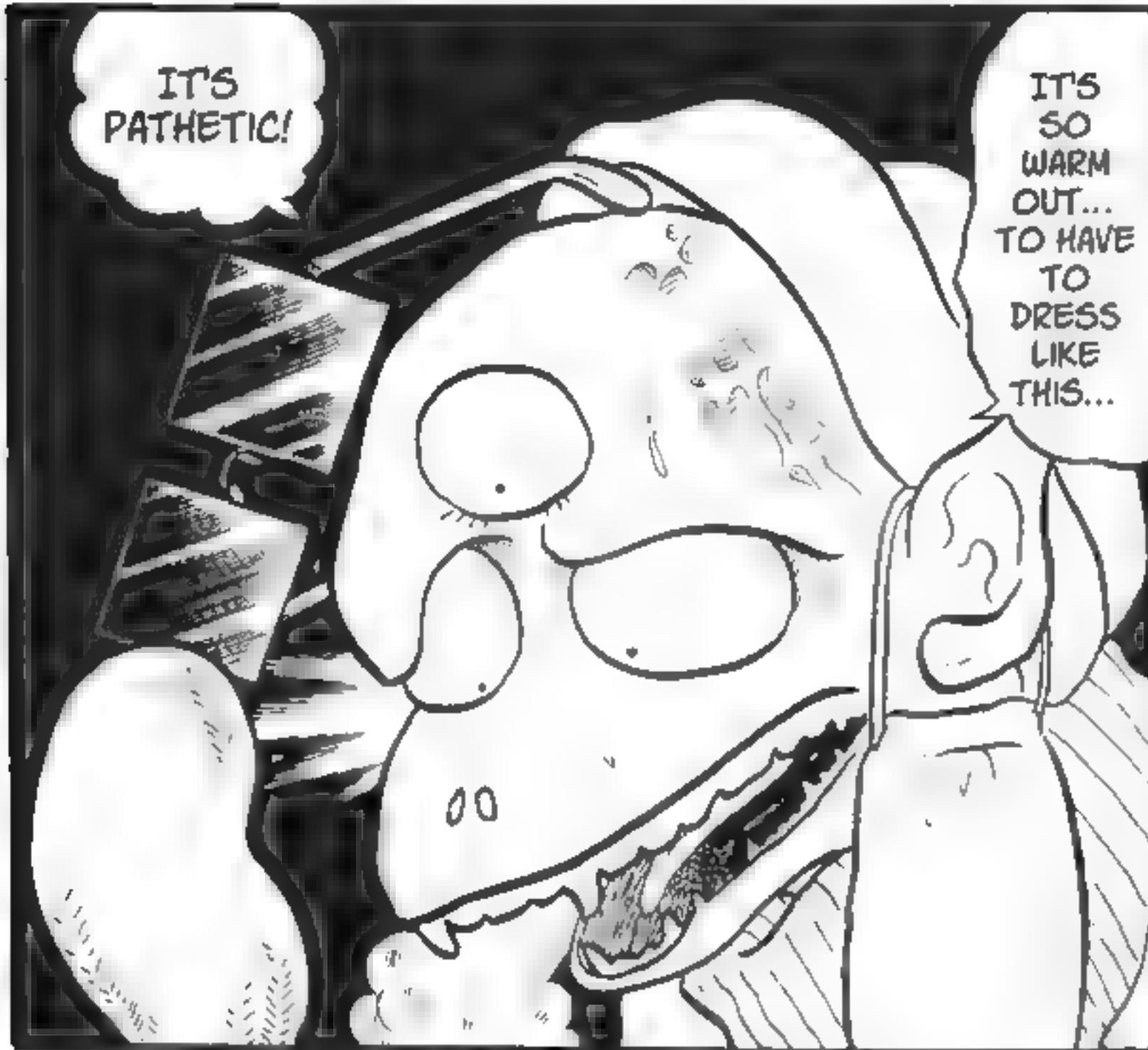
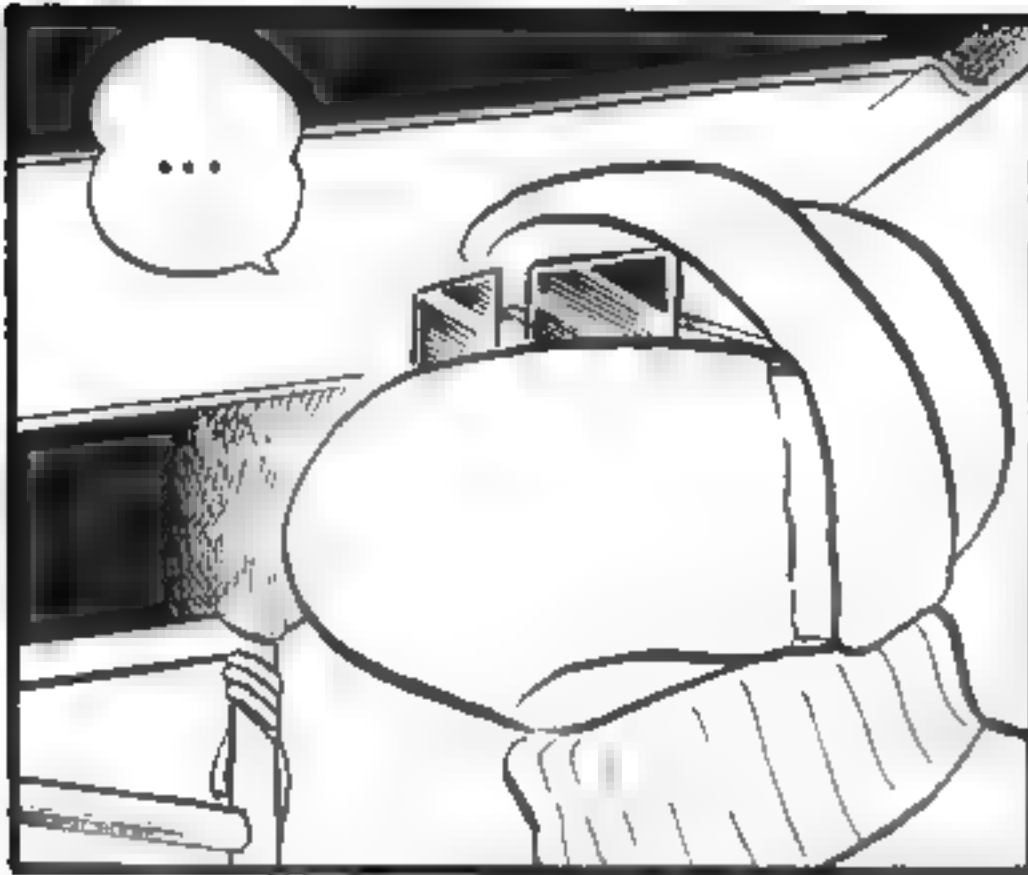


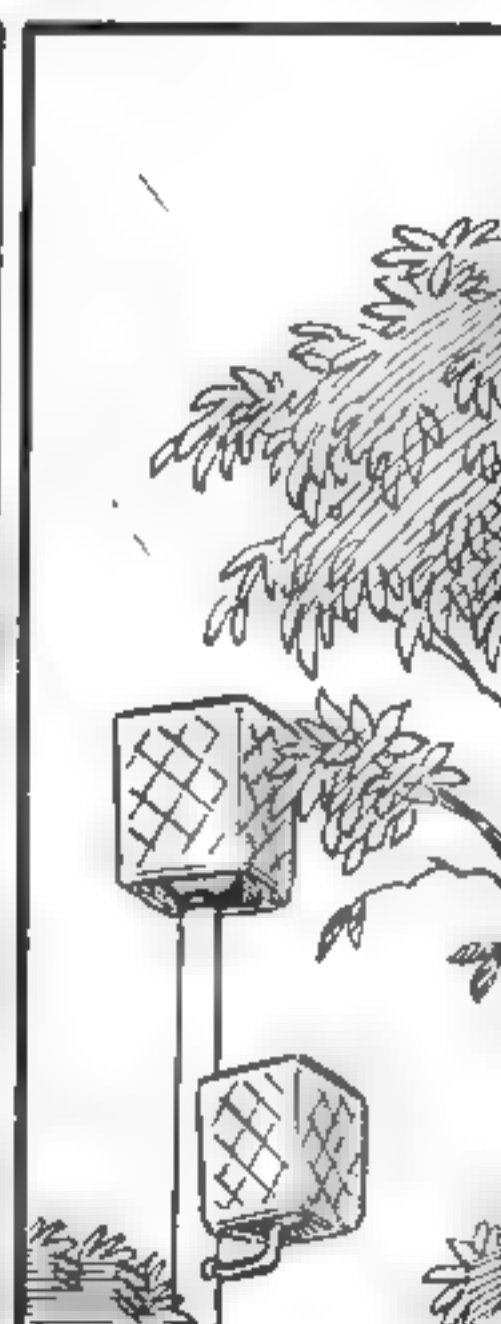


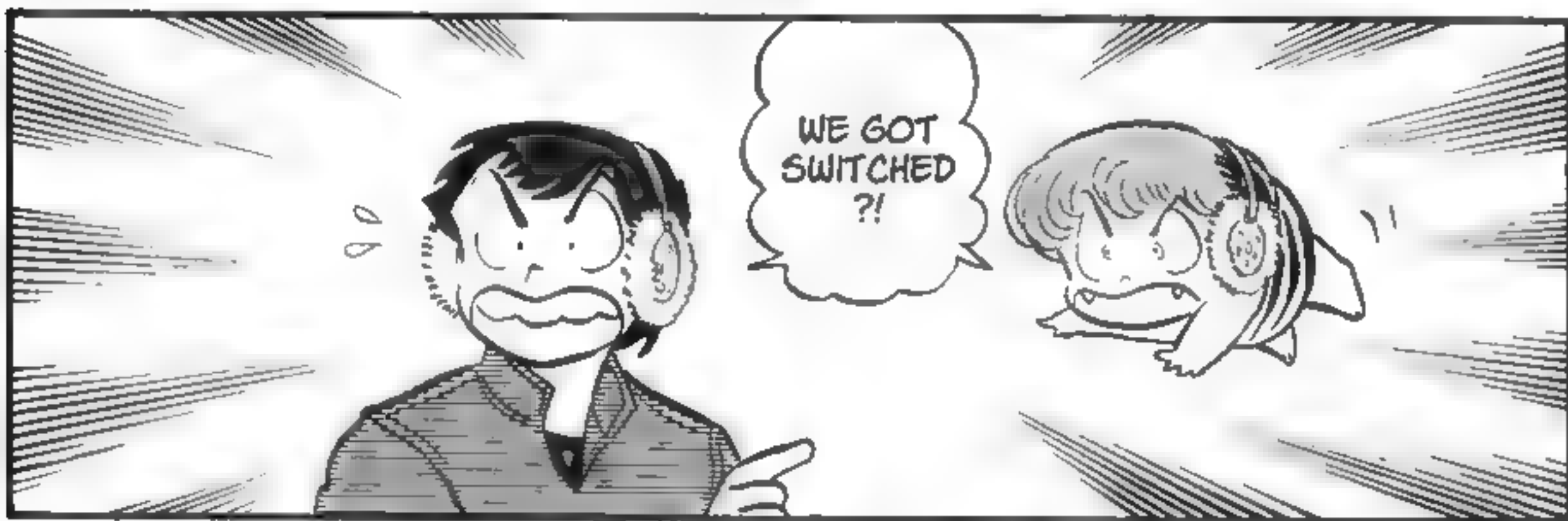
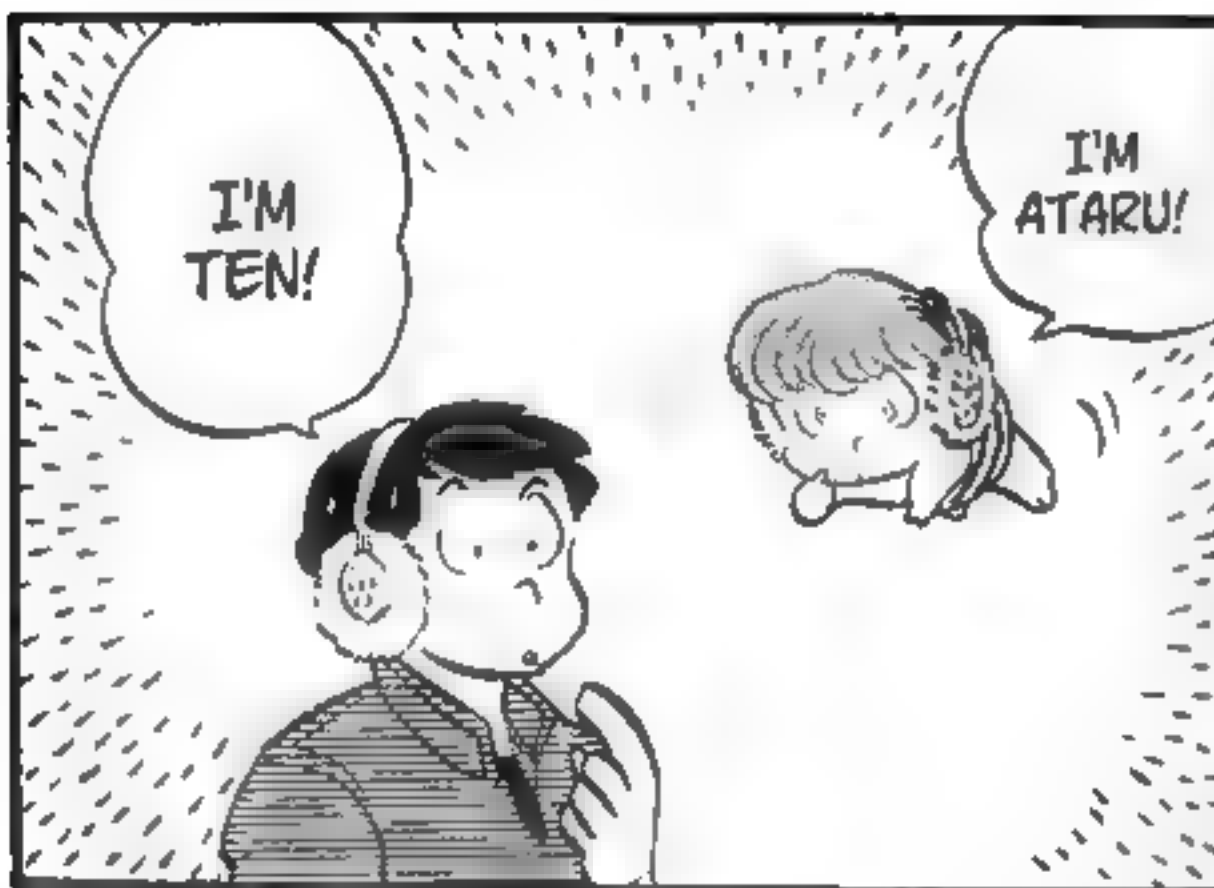
CHAPTER 14: EERIE EARMUFFS

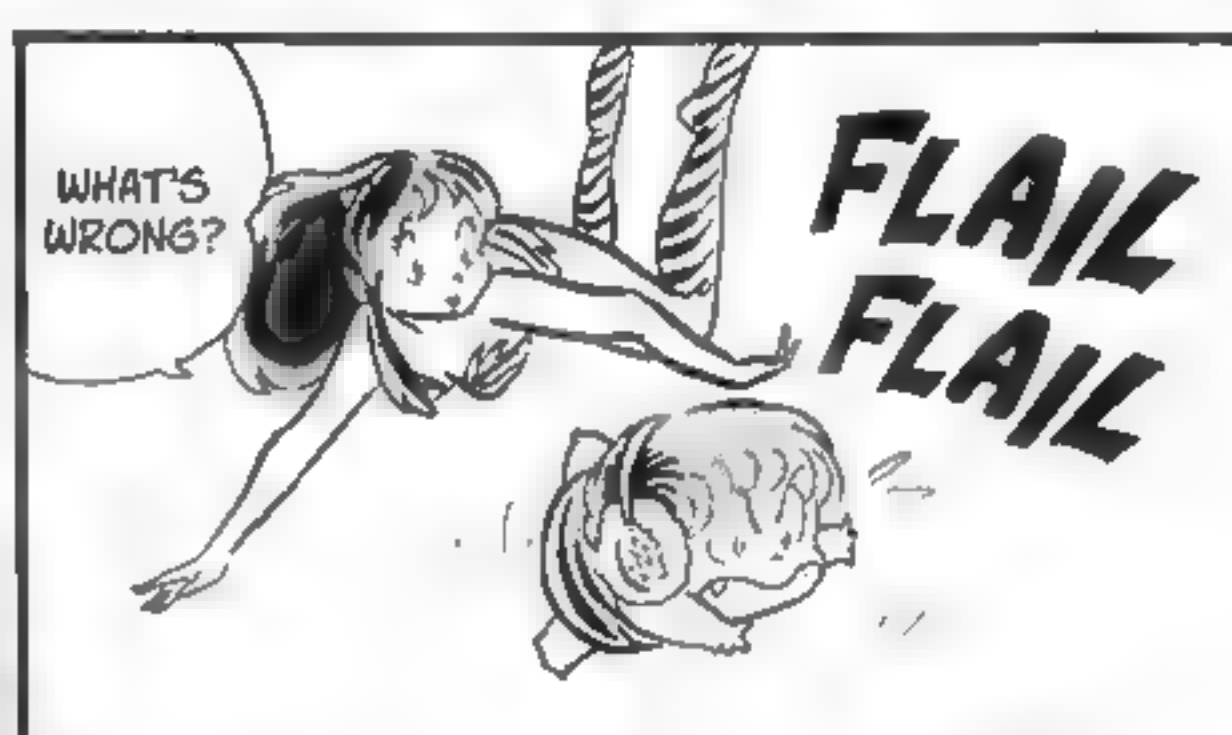
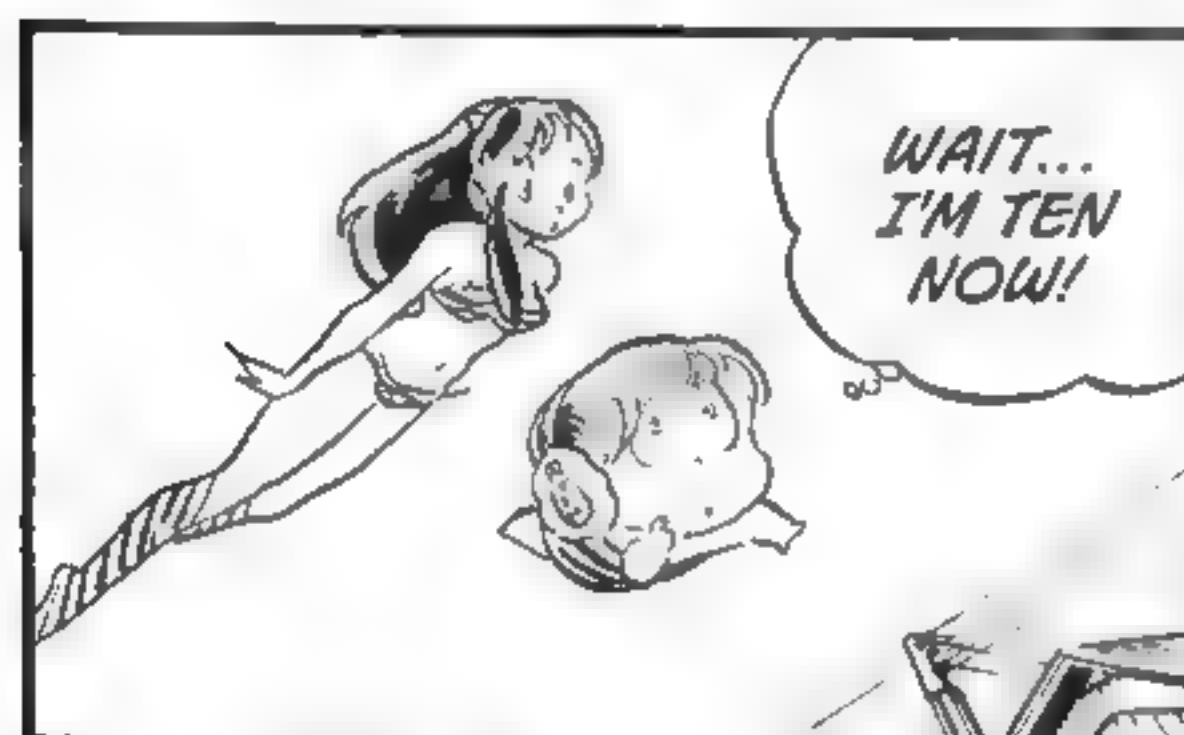
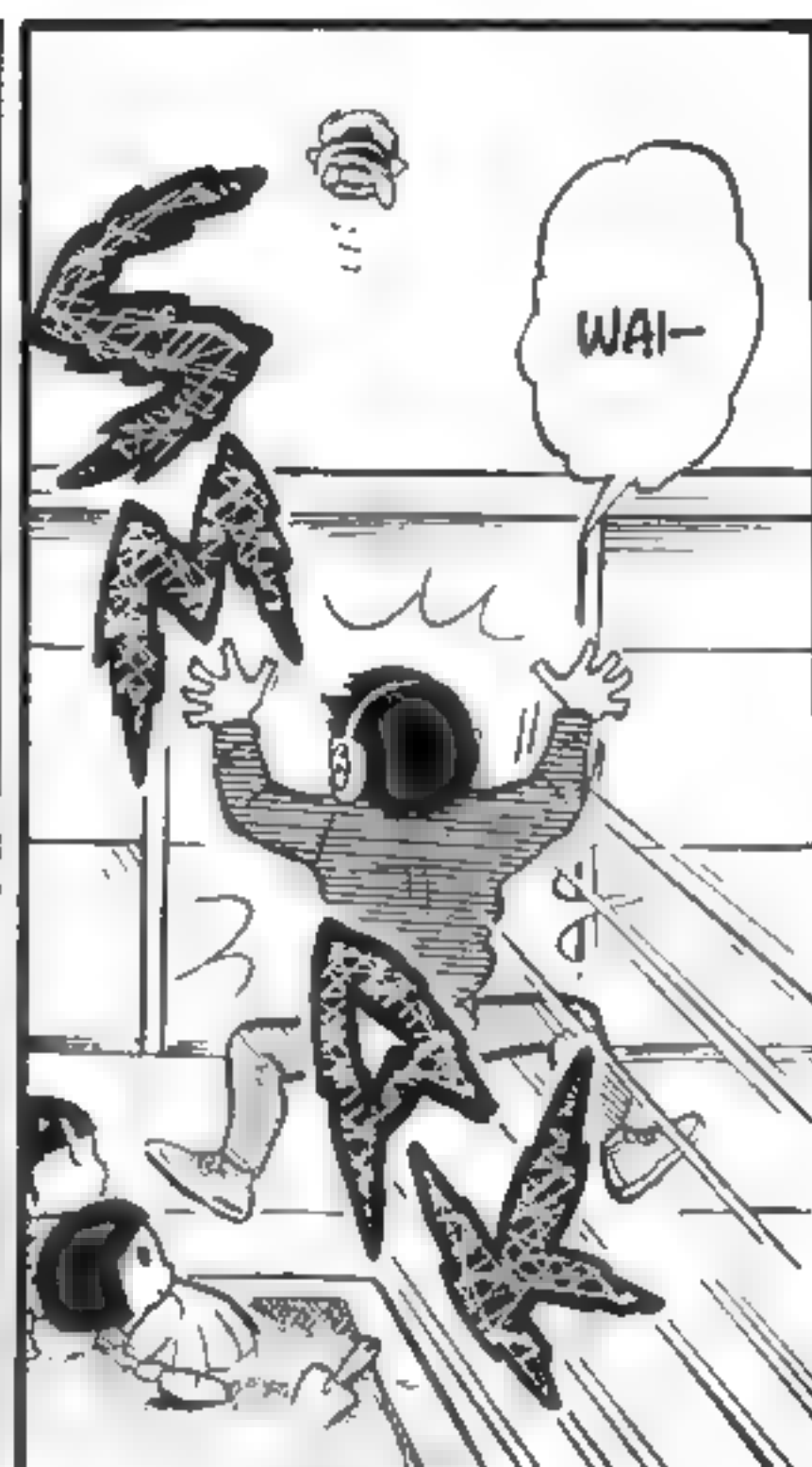
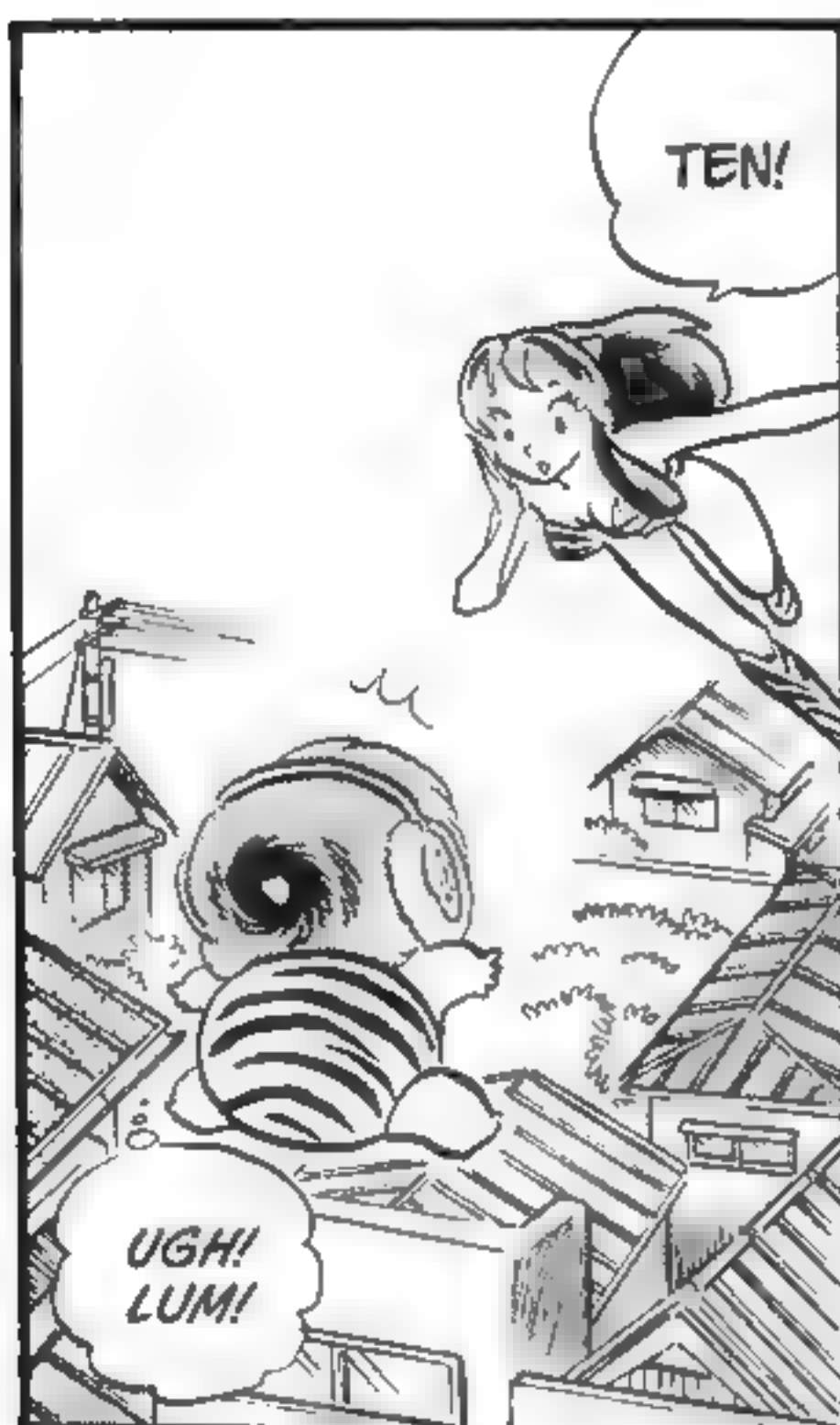


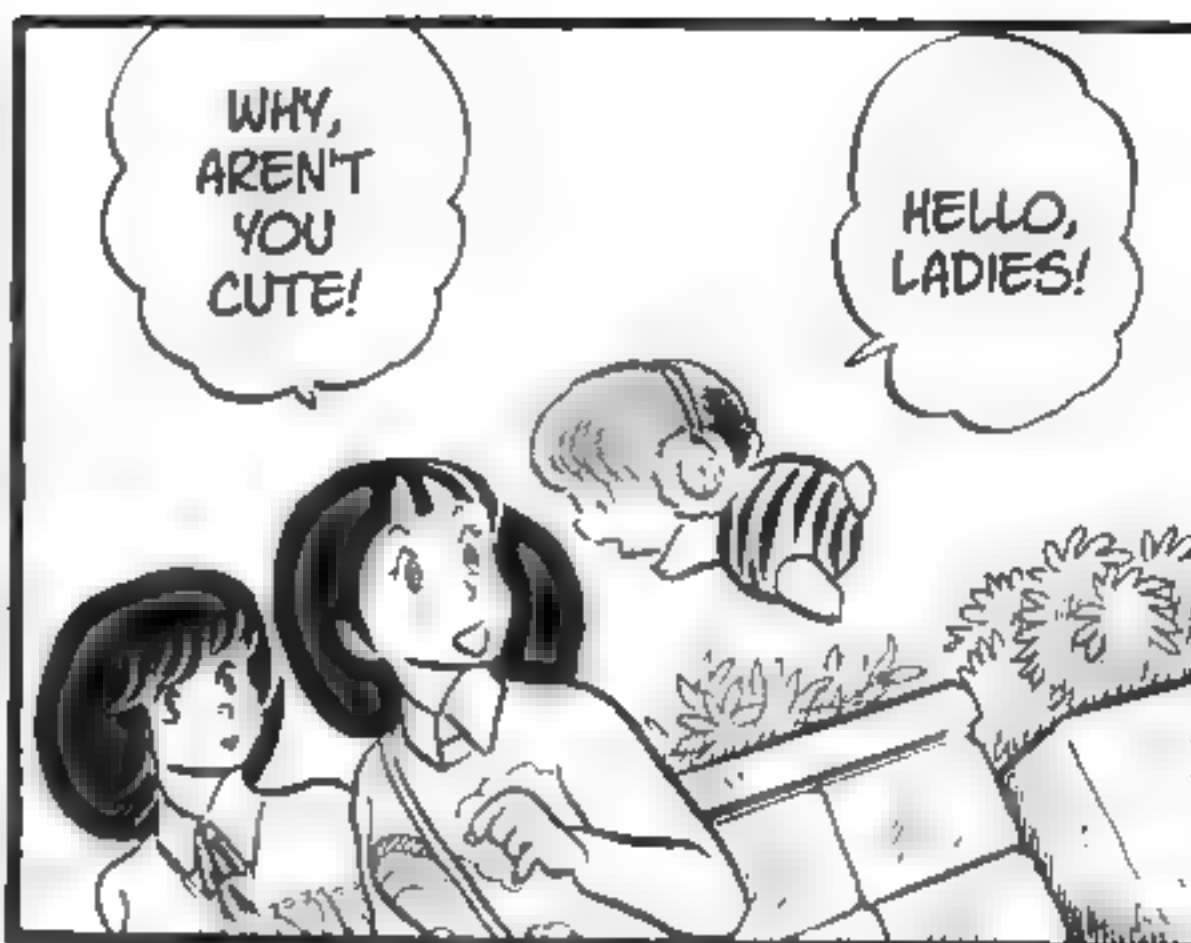














BYE,
LADIES!



HEY!
GIVE ME
MY BODY
BACK!

OH!



HERE,
LET ME
HOLD
HIM!

AW!

AH...
WHAT A
DOLL!



LUM,
STOP HIM!
DARLING WANTS
TO PICK ON
ME!

GET HIM,
LUM!



SAKU-
RAAAA!



OH!
THERE
GOES
ONE OF
MY
FAVORITE
RACKS!



LUM,
WHY DO YOU
BELIEVE HIM
AND NOT
ME?

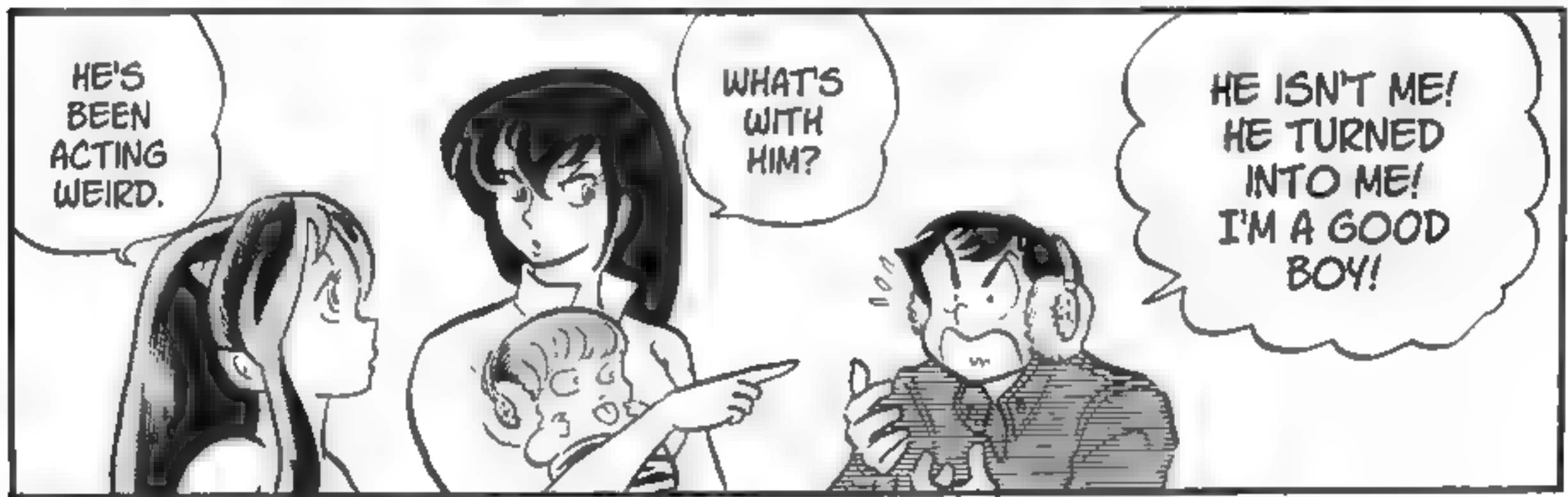
SETTLE
DOWN,
DARLING!

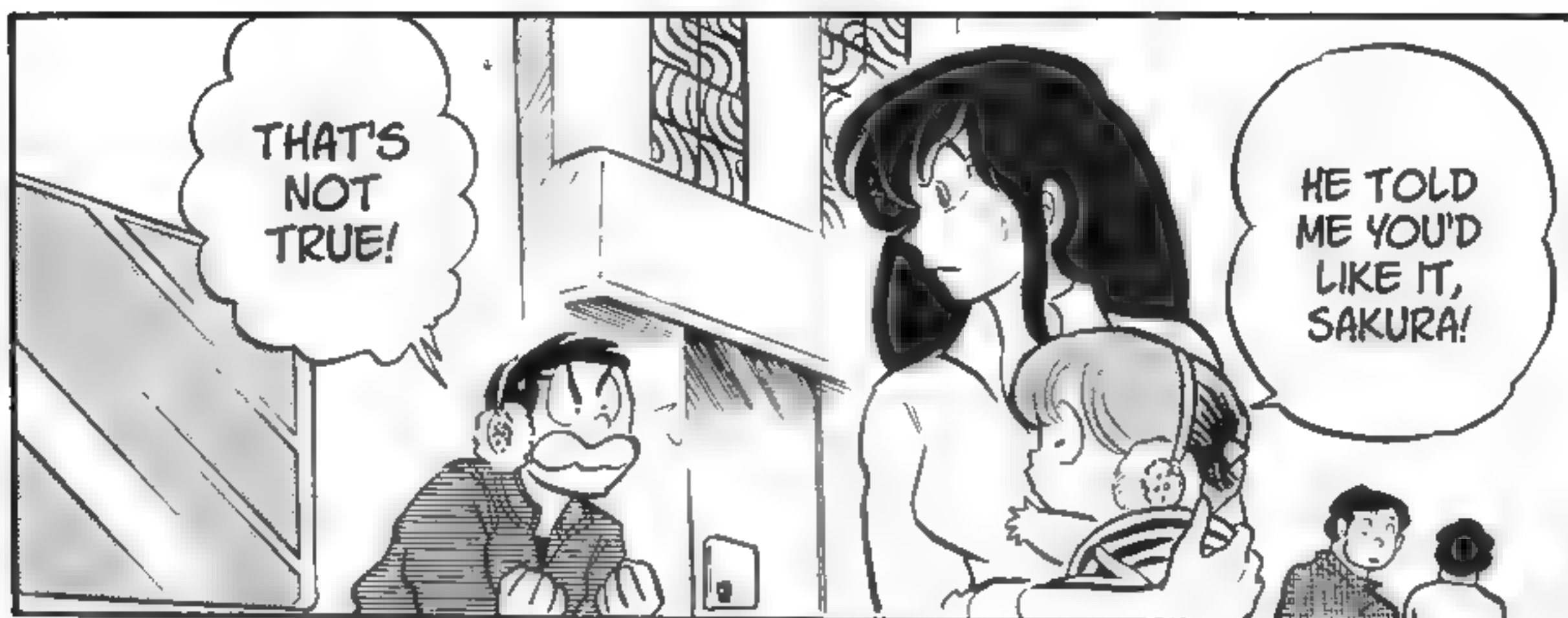
DRAG

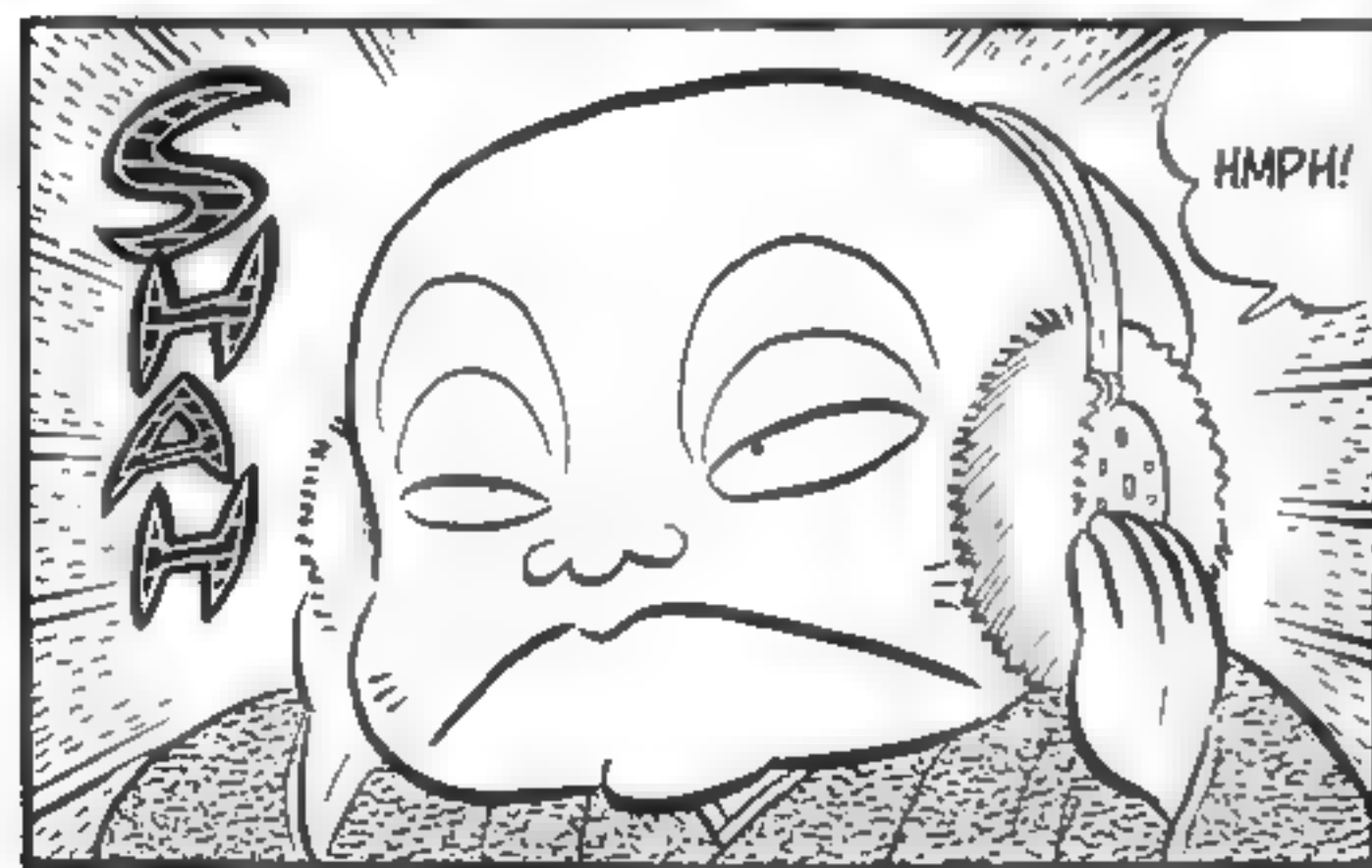
I'VE EARNED
HER TRUST
THROUGH MY
BEHAVIOR,
THAT'S WHY!

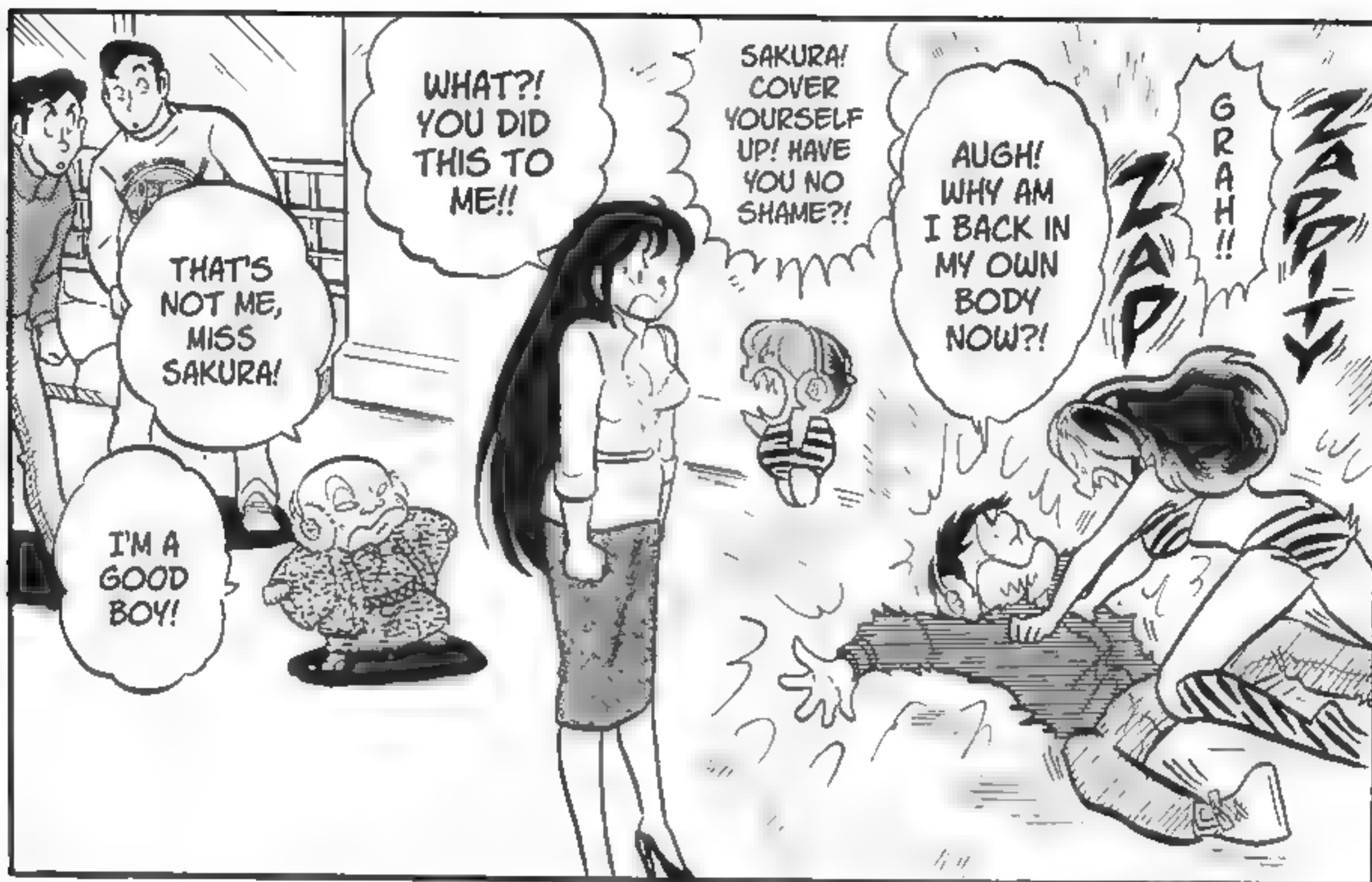












CHAPTER 15: BEWARE THE FEARSOME MEOW- MEOW

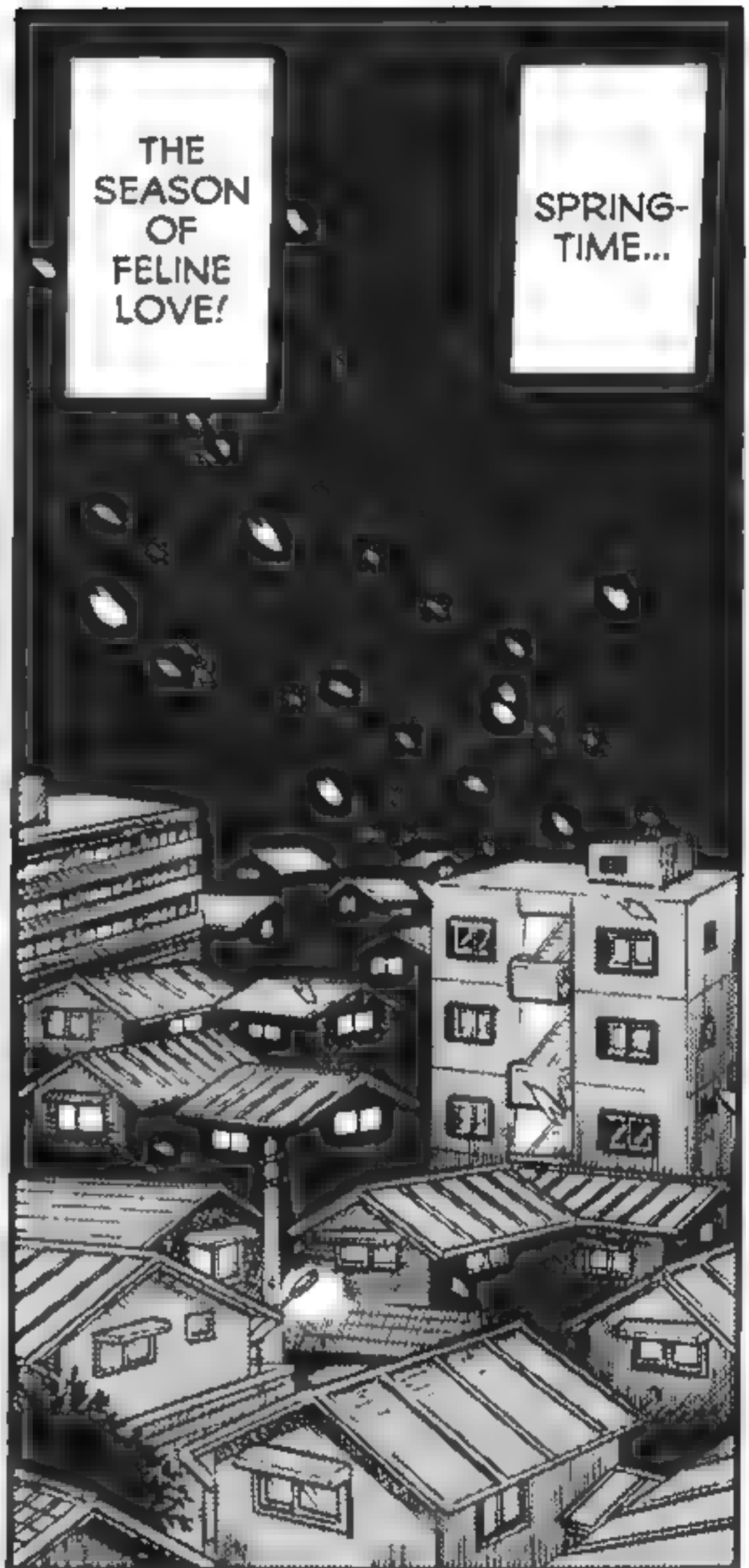


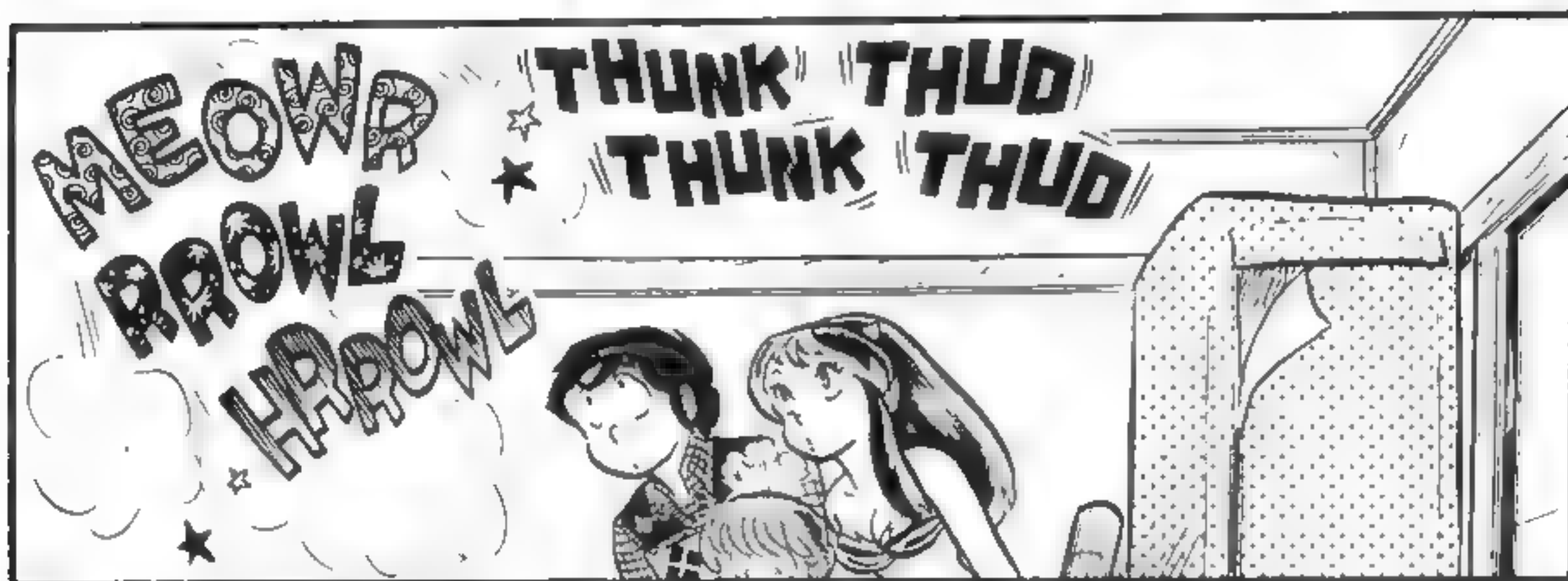


THE CATS,
IN FULL GLORY,
SING AN
EARSPLITTING
SONG...

THE
SEASON
OF
FELINE
LOVE!

SPRING-
TIME...

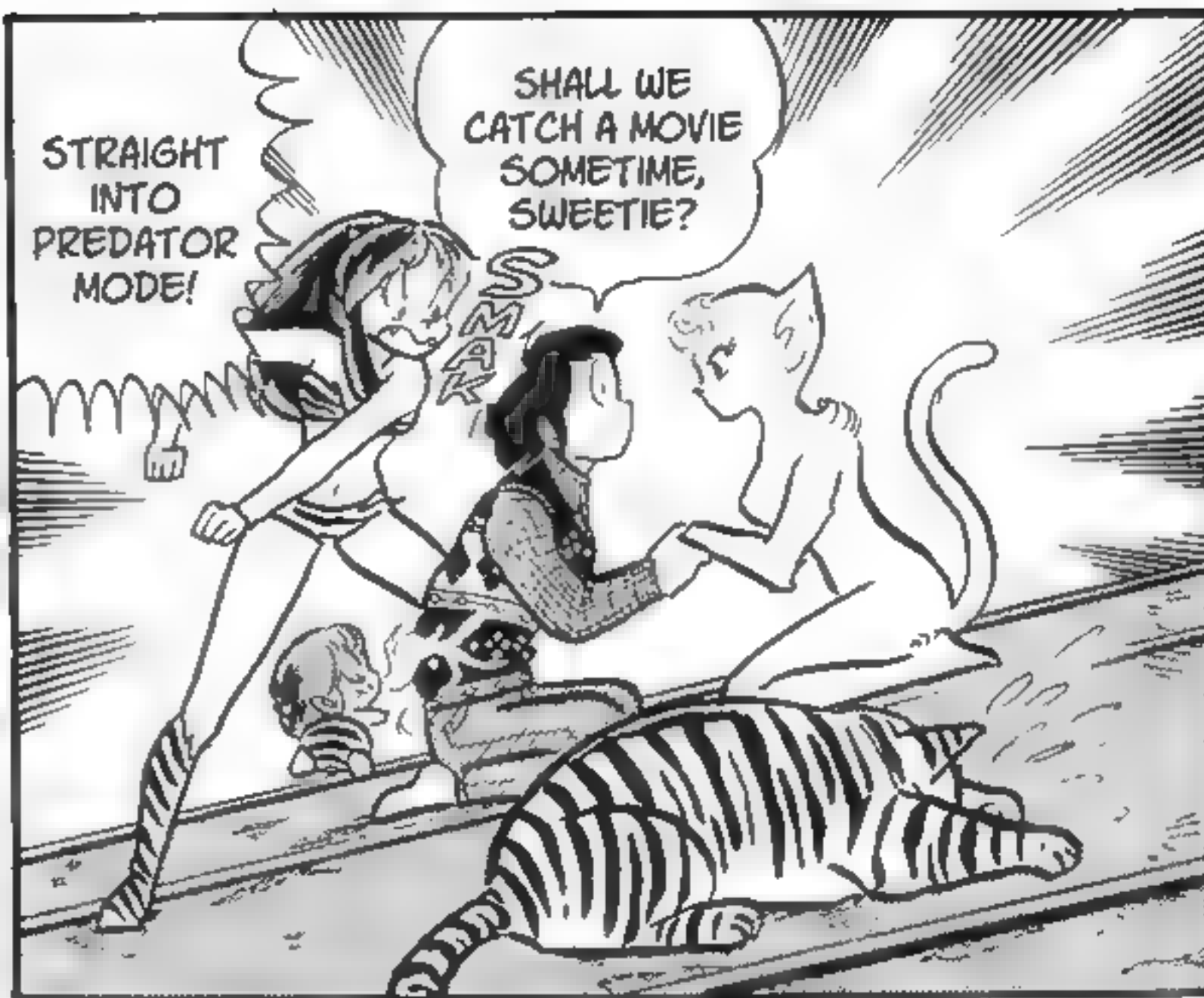










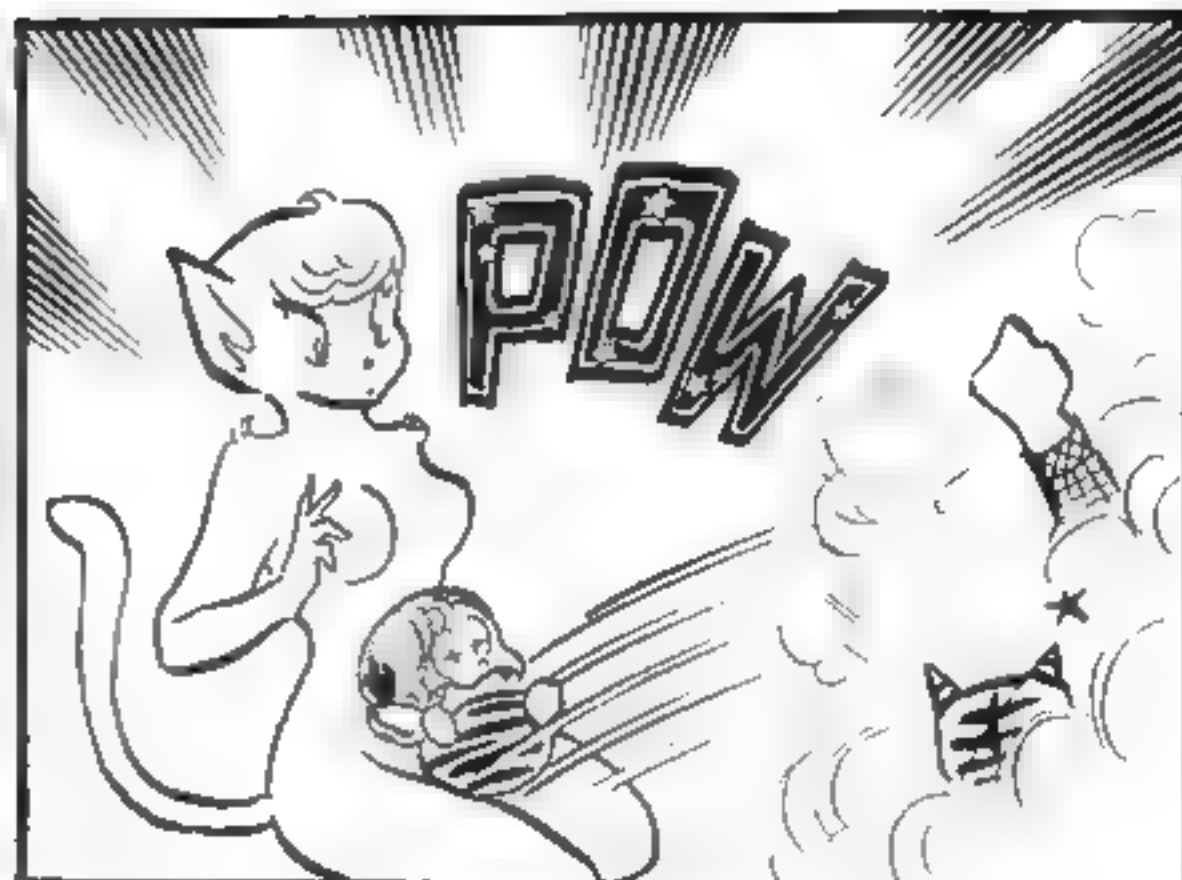


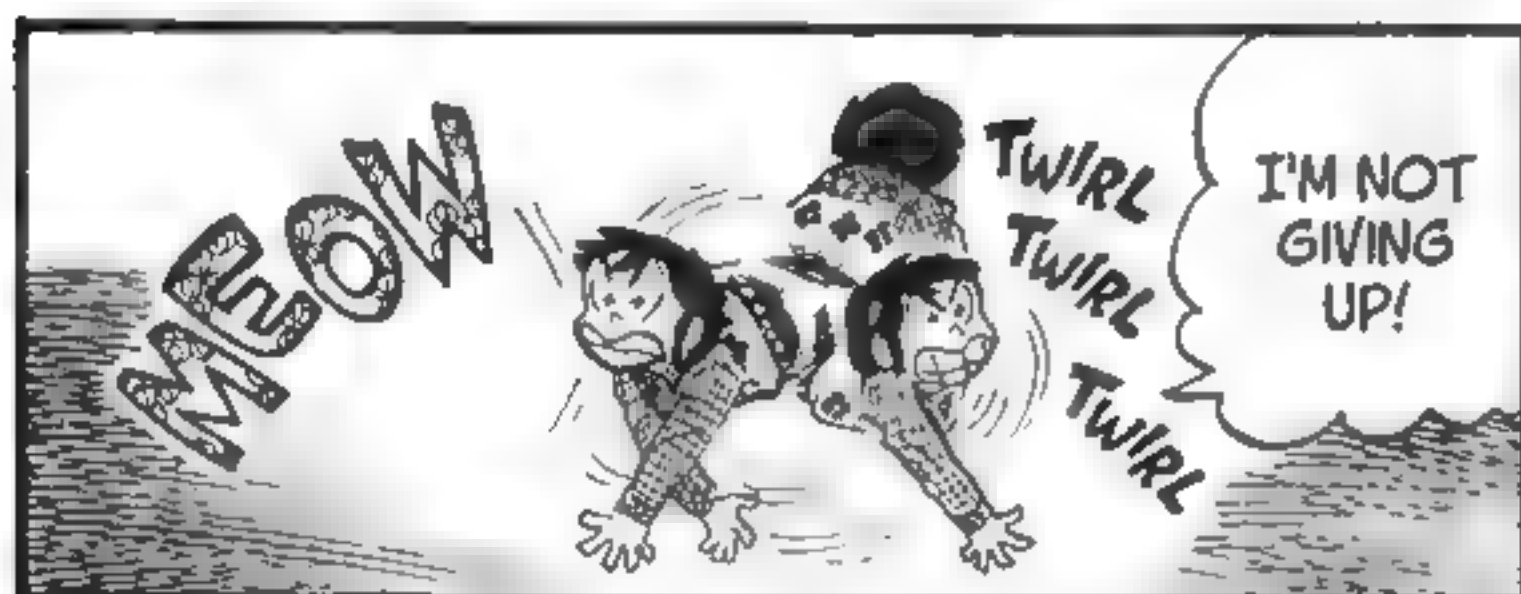












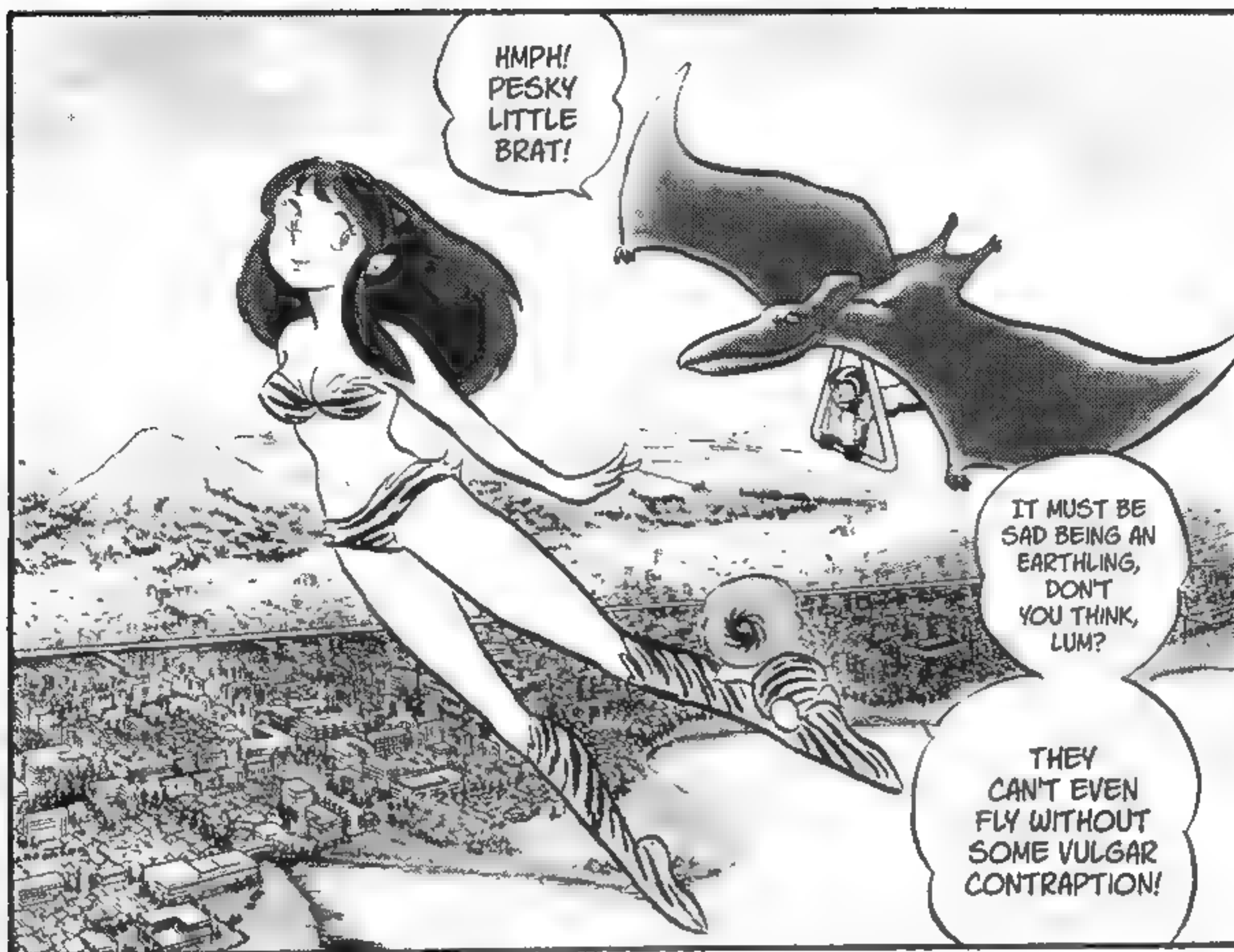


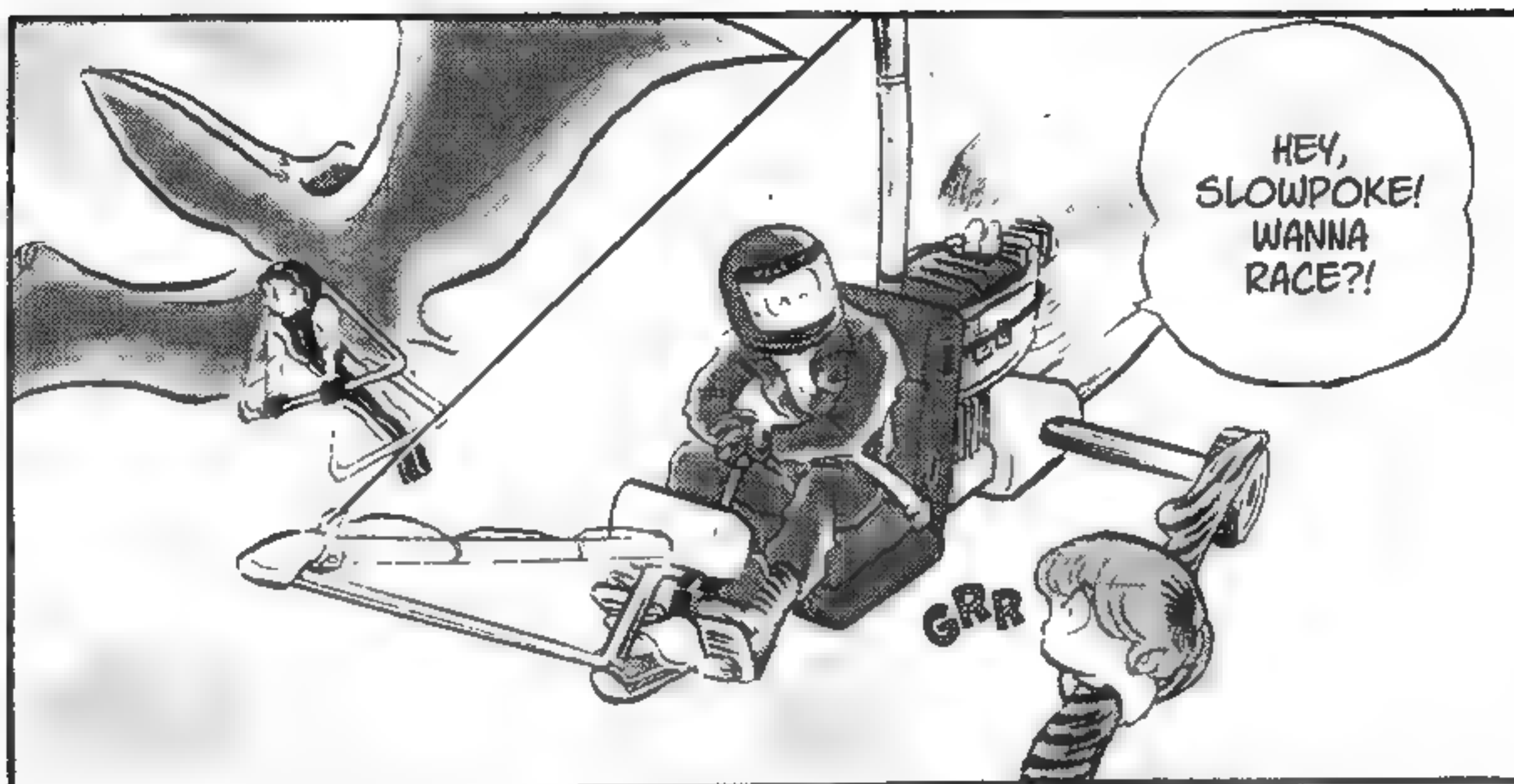


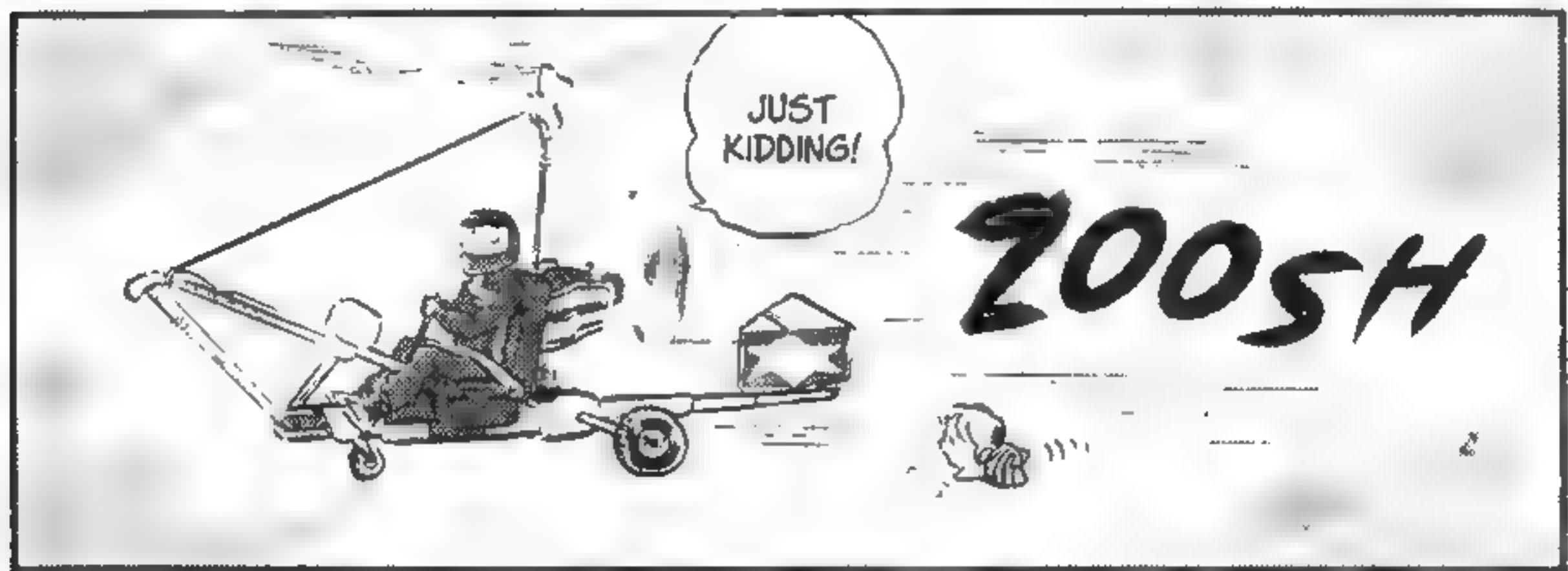
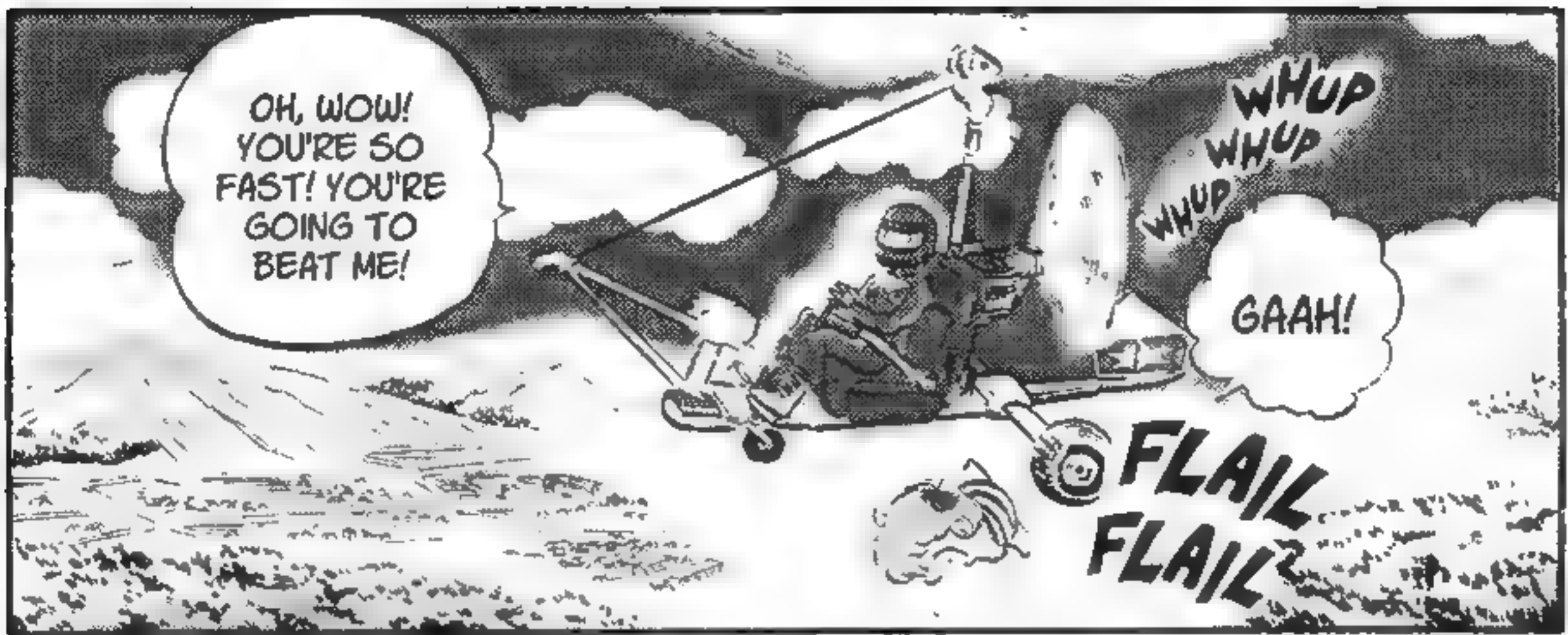
CHAPTER 16: THE FLYING CHAOS QUARTET





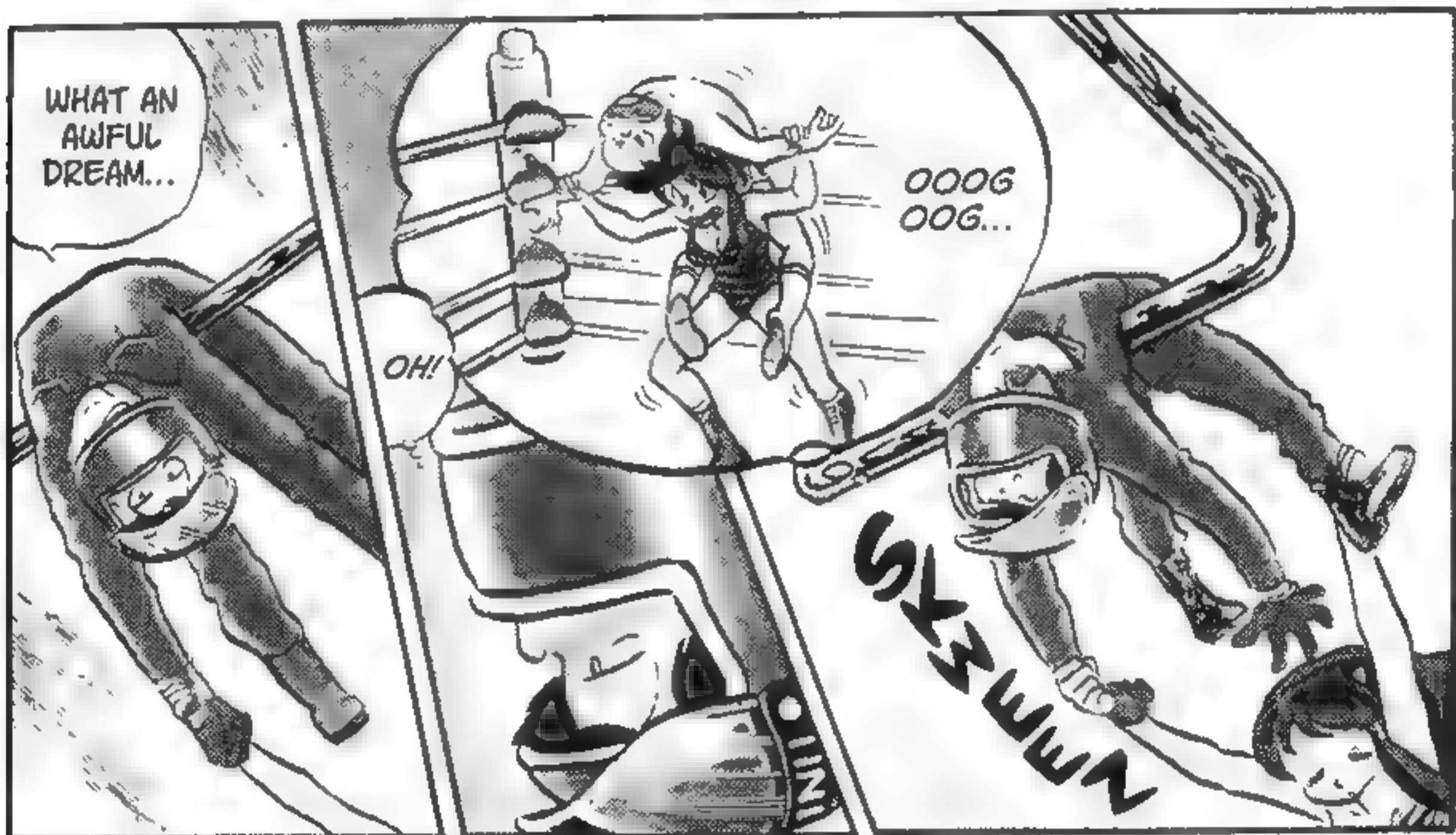
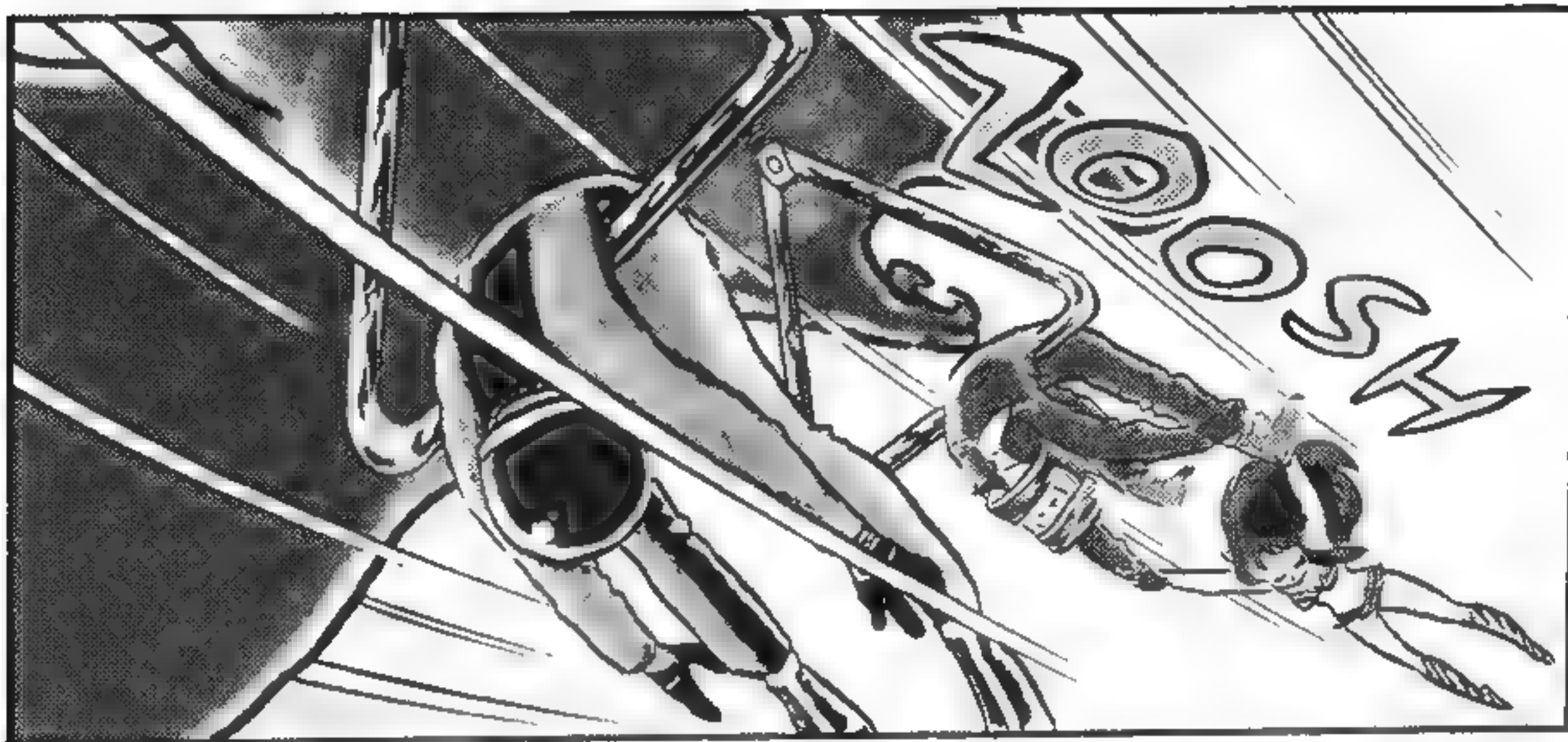


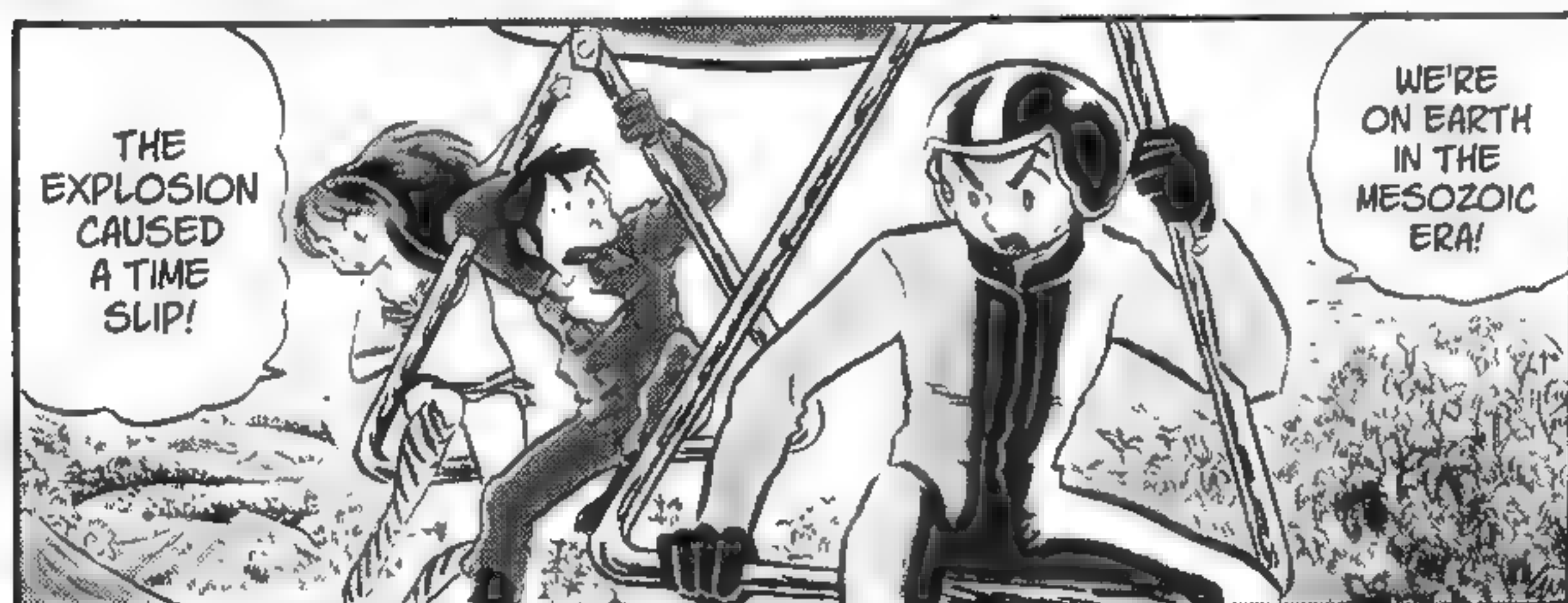


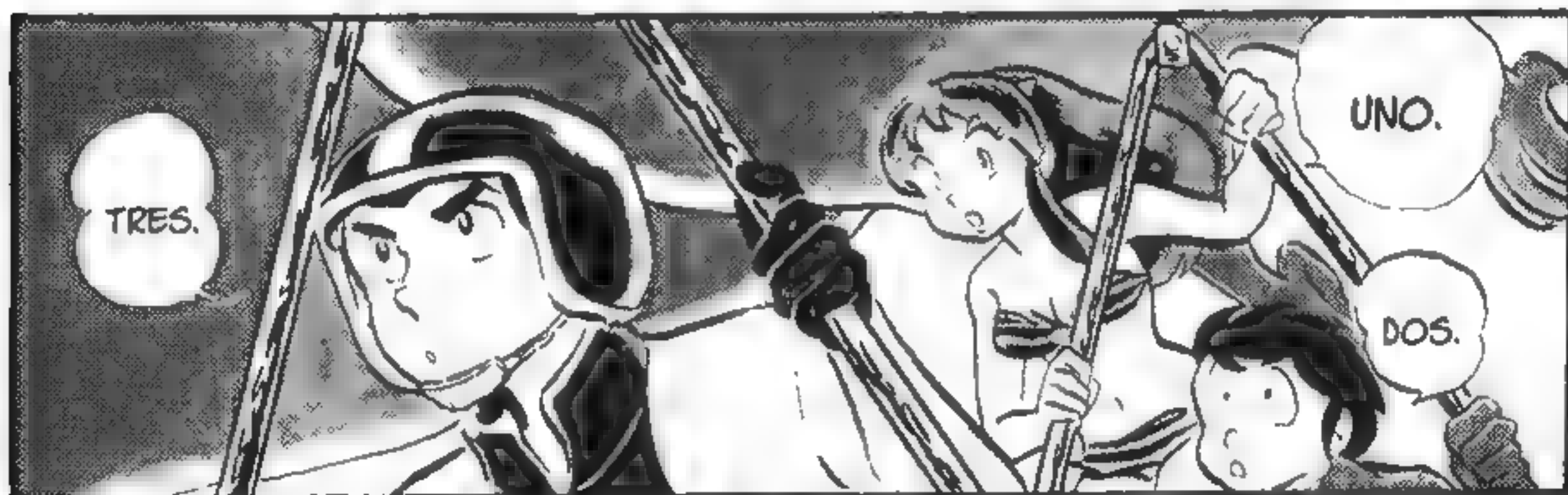
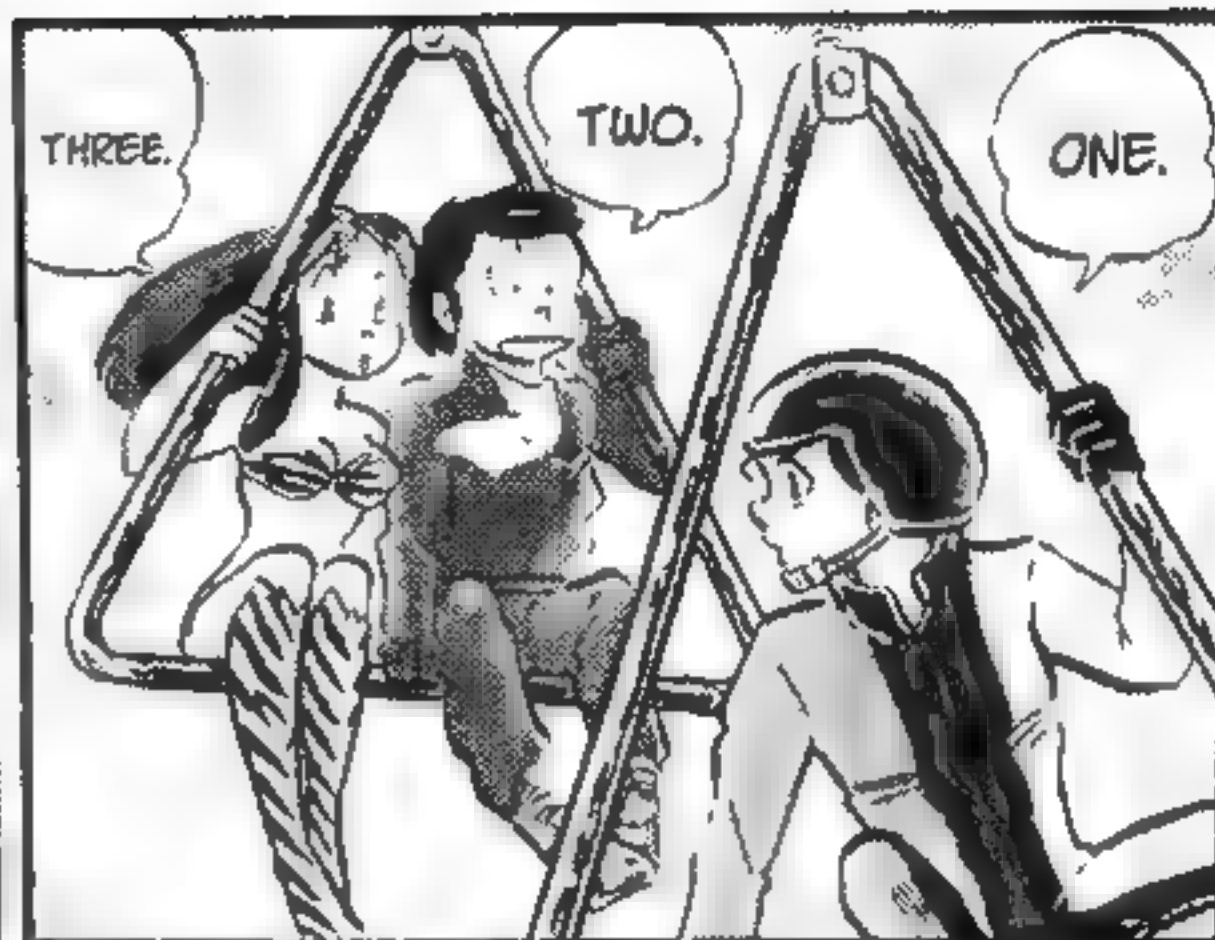
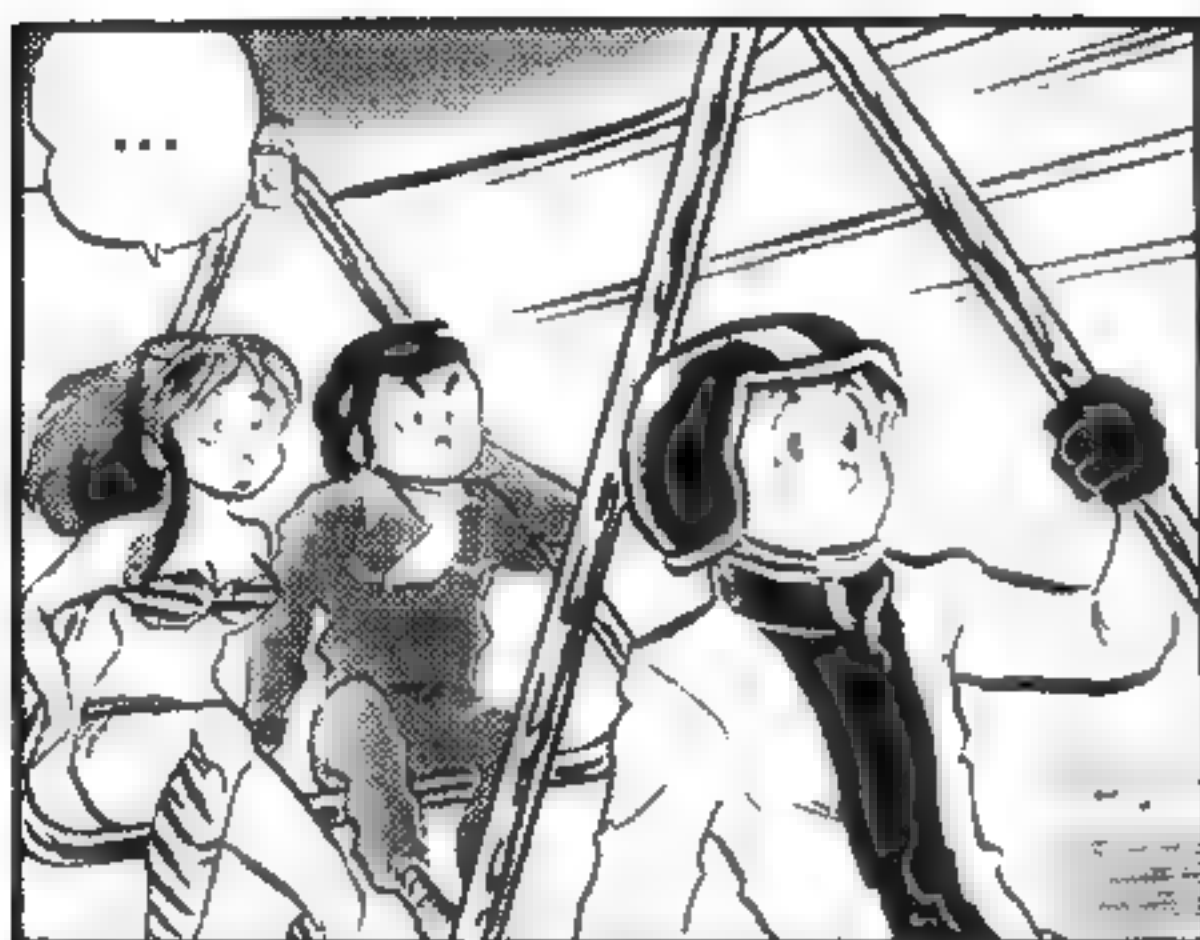


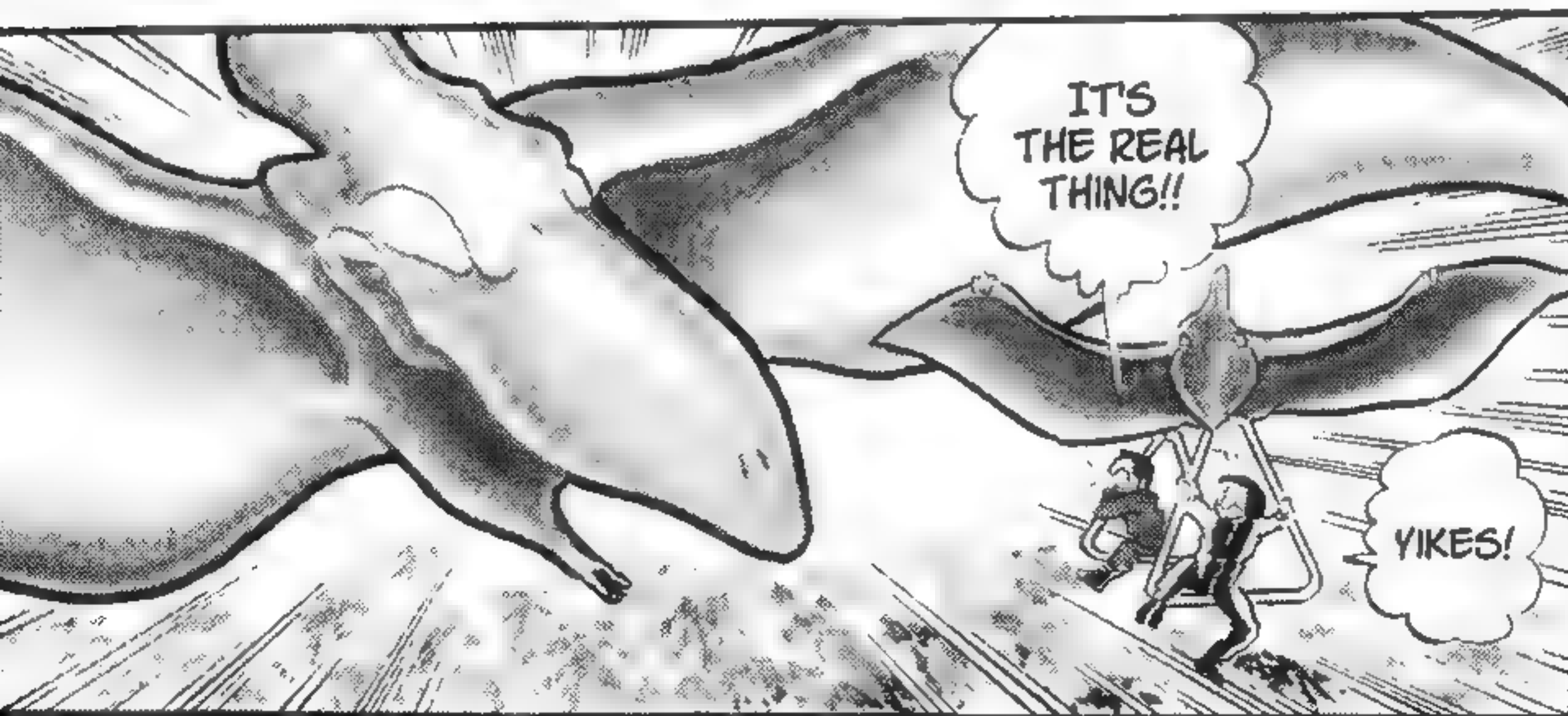




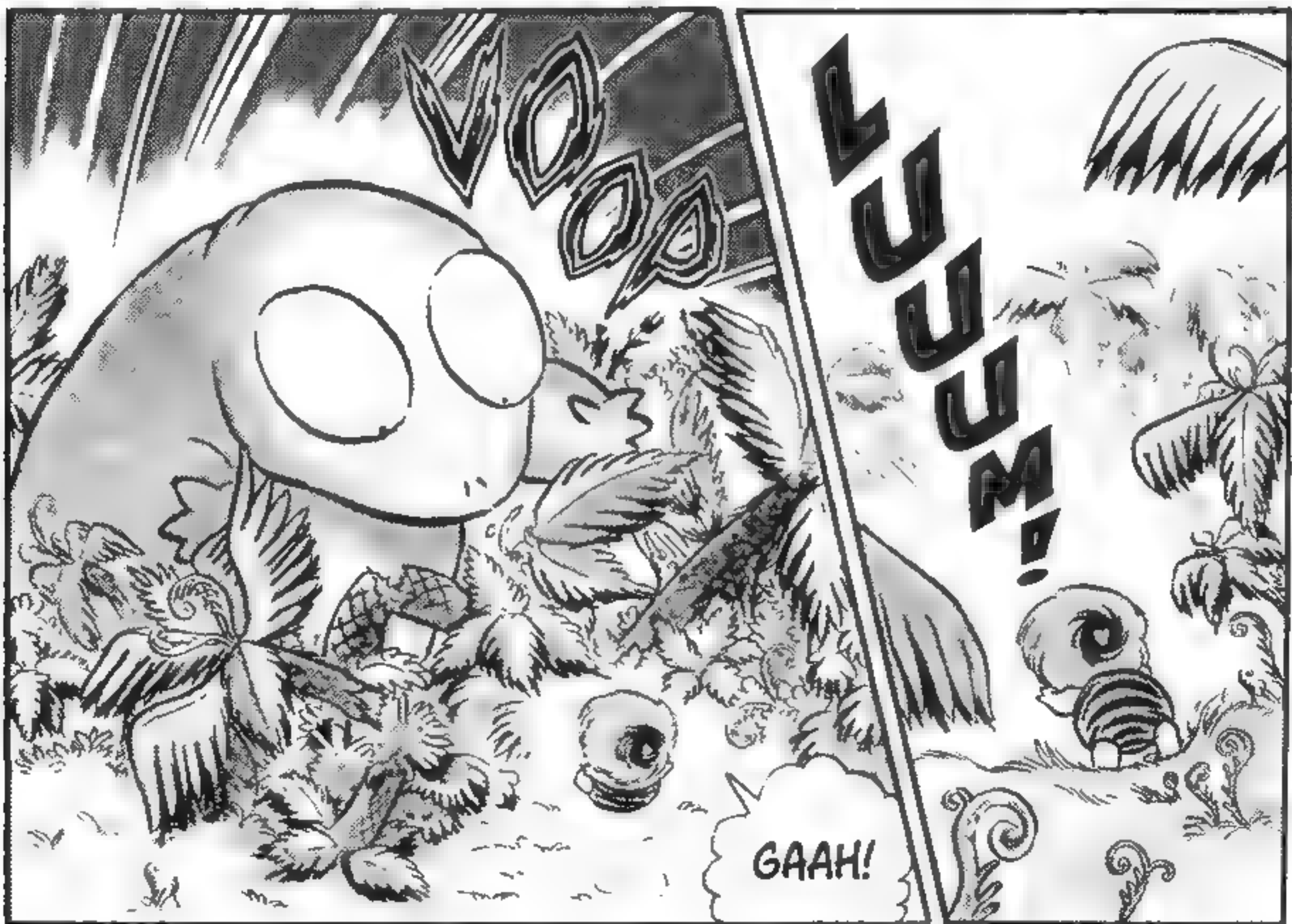
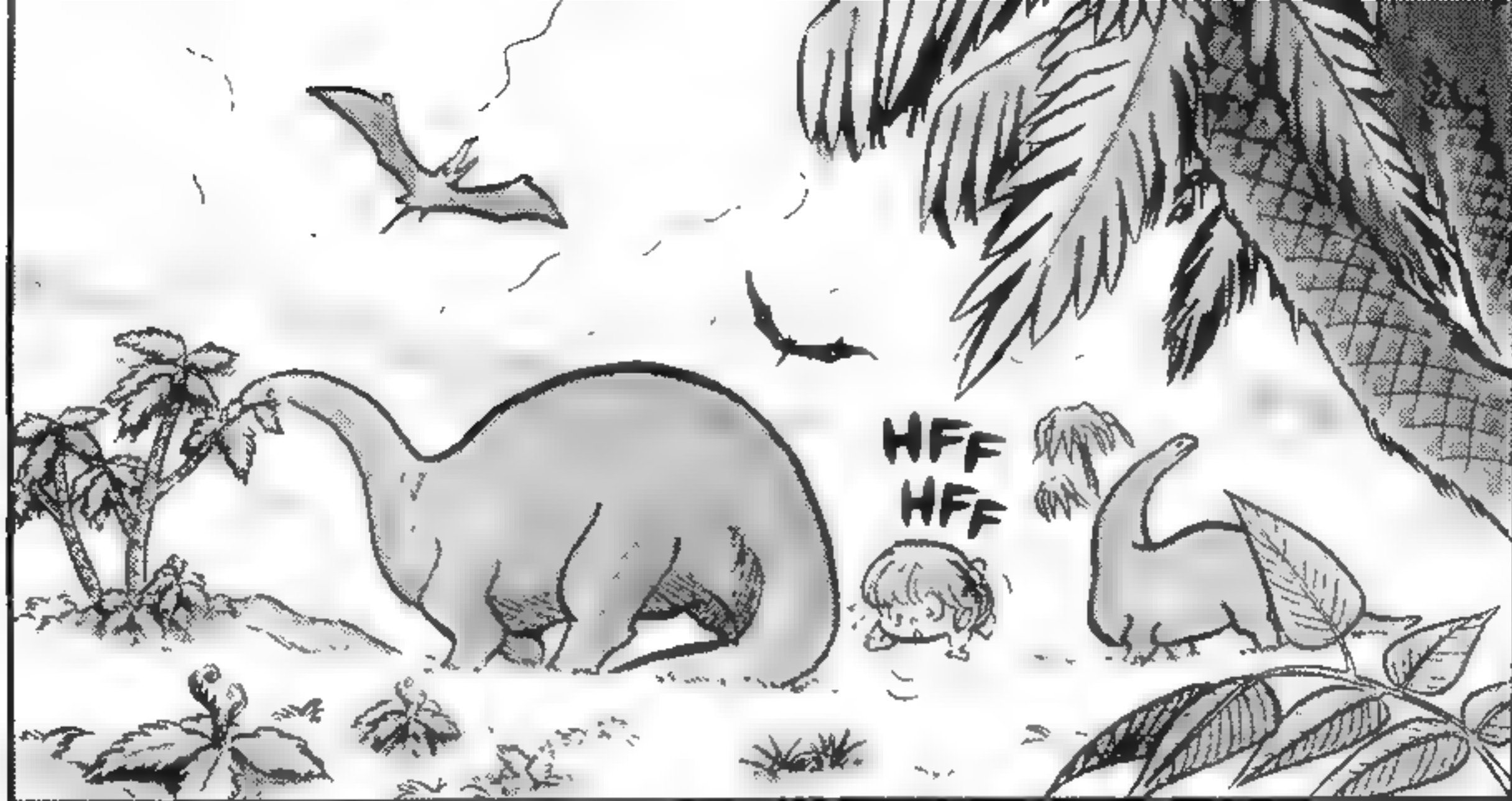


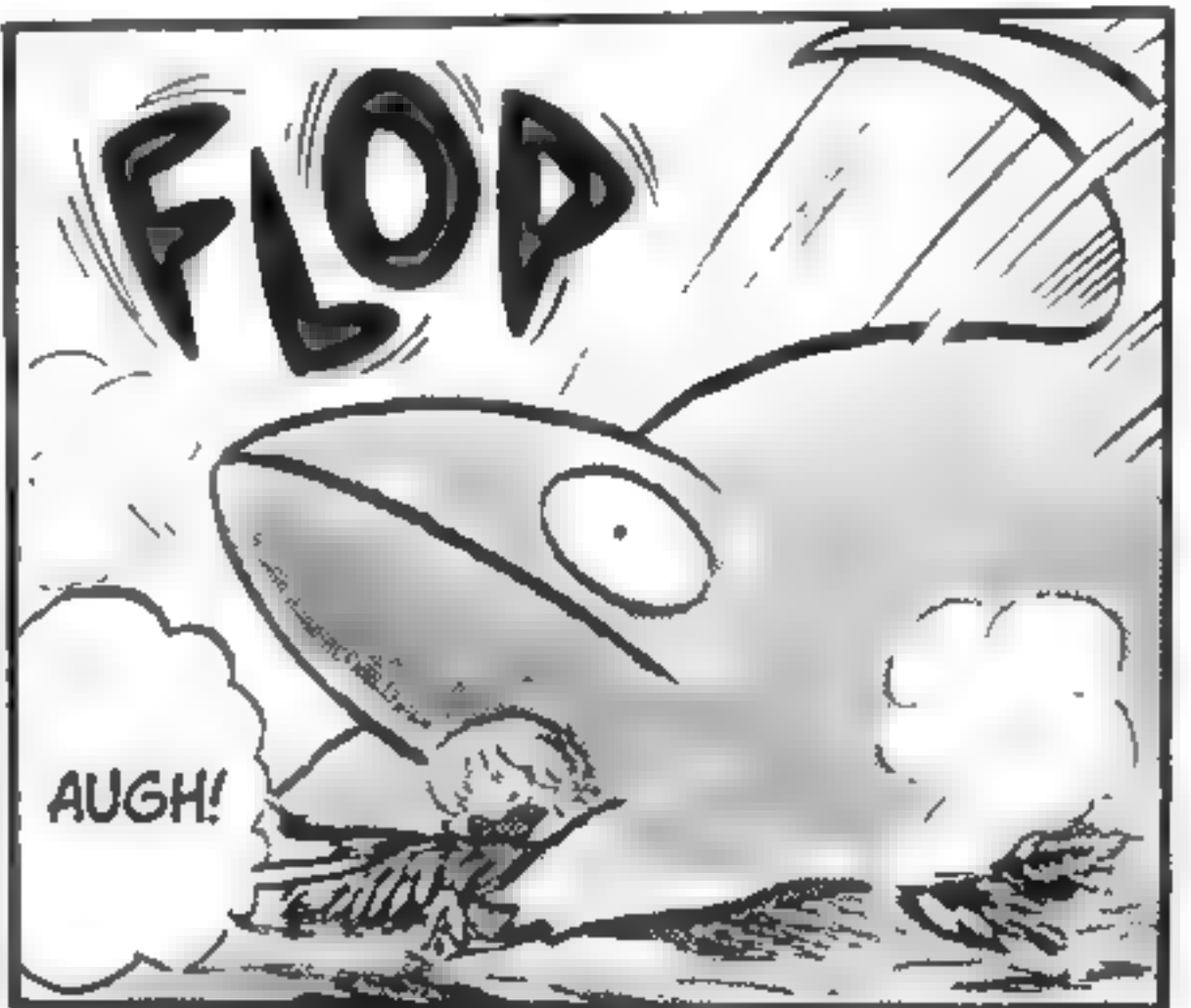
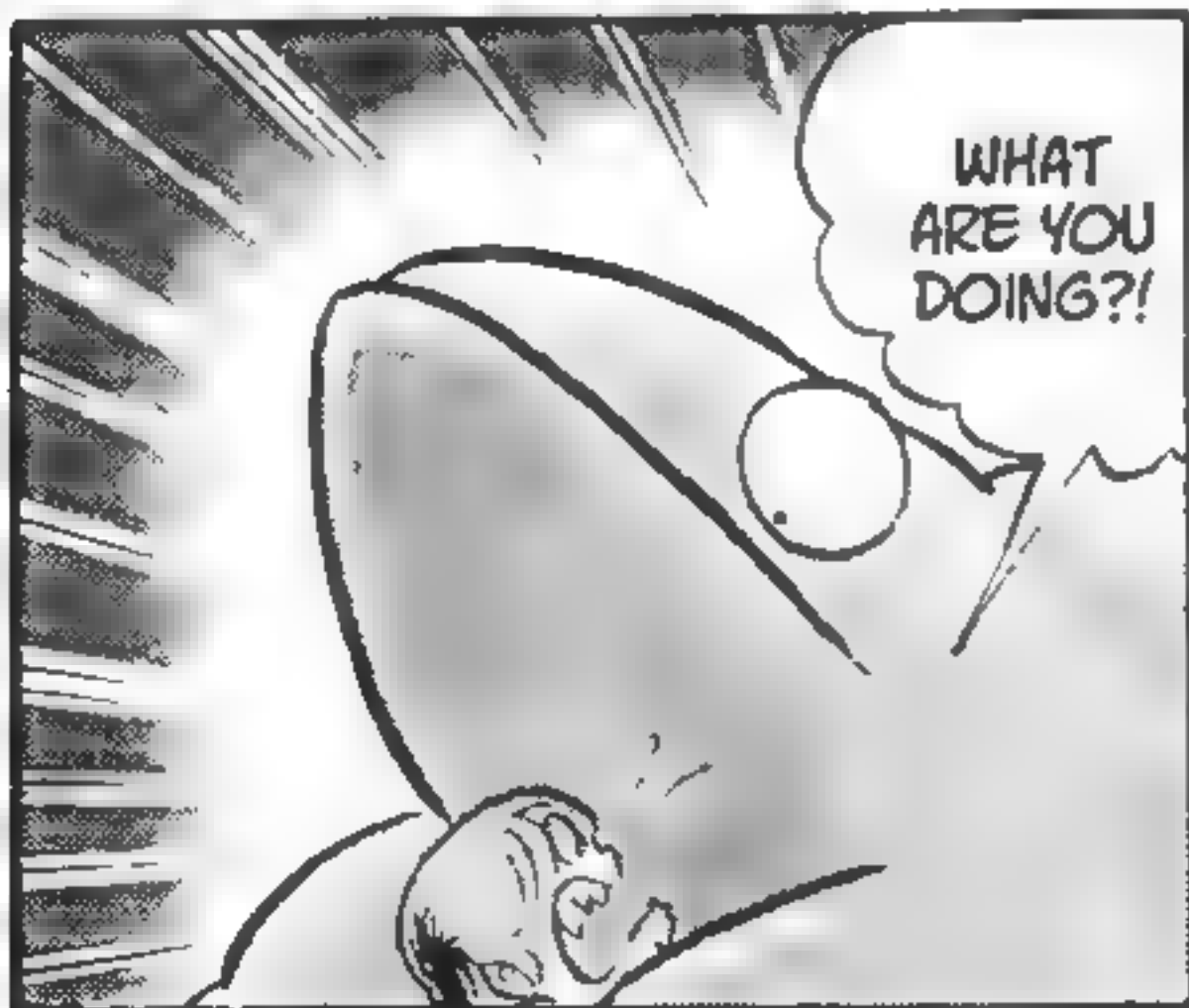
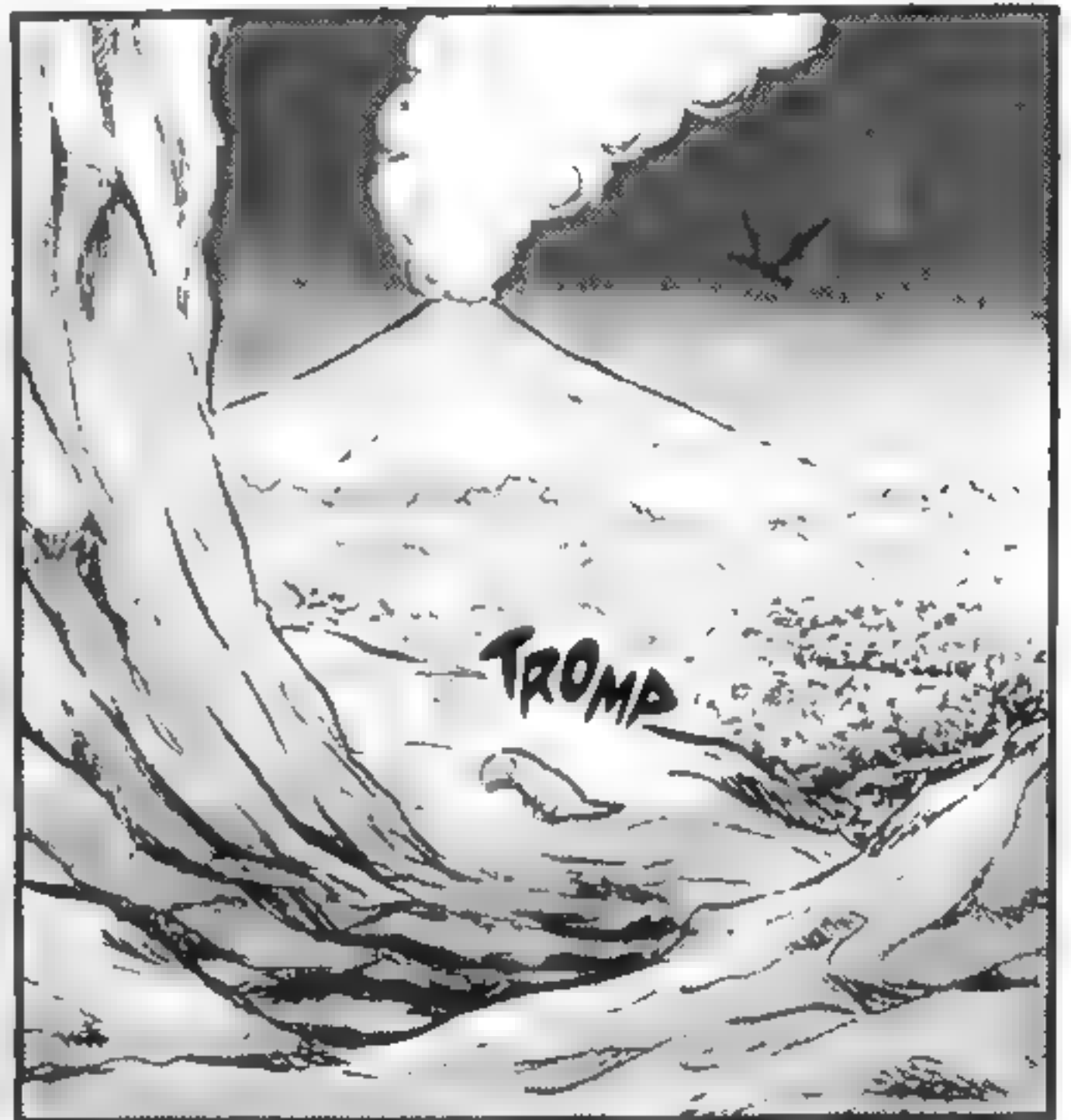
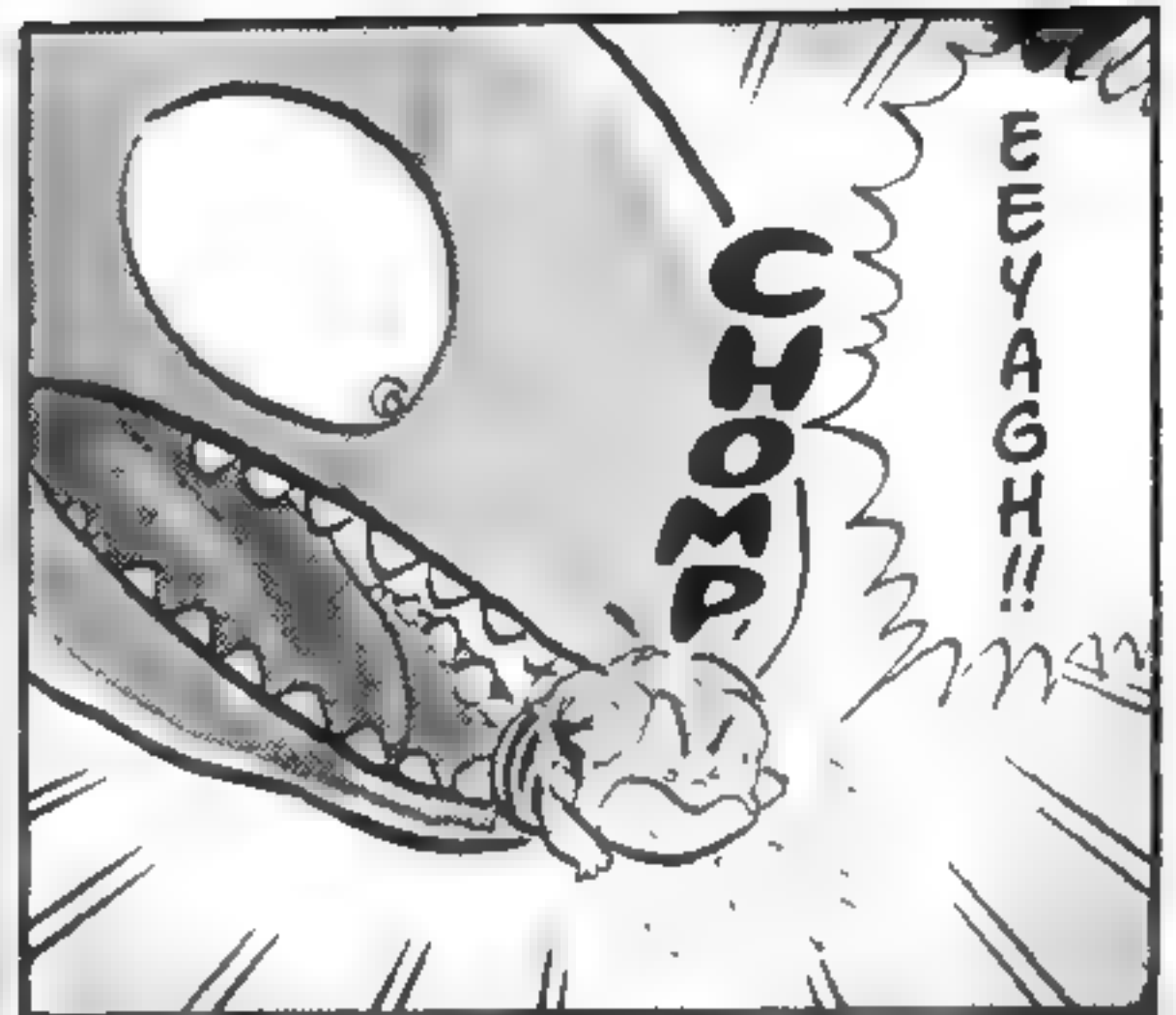
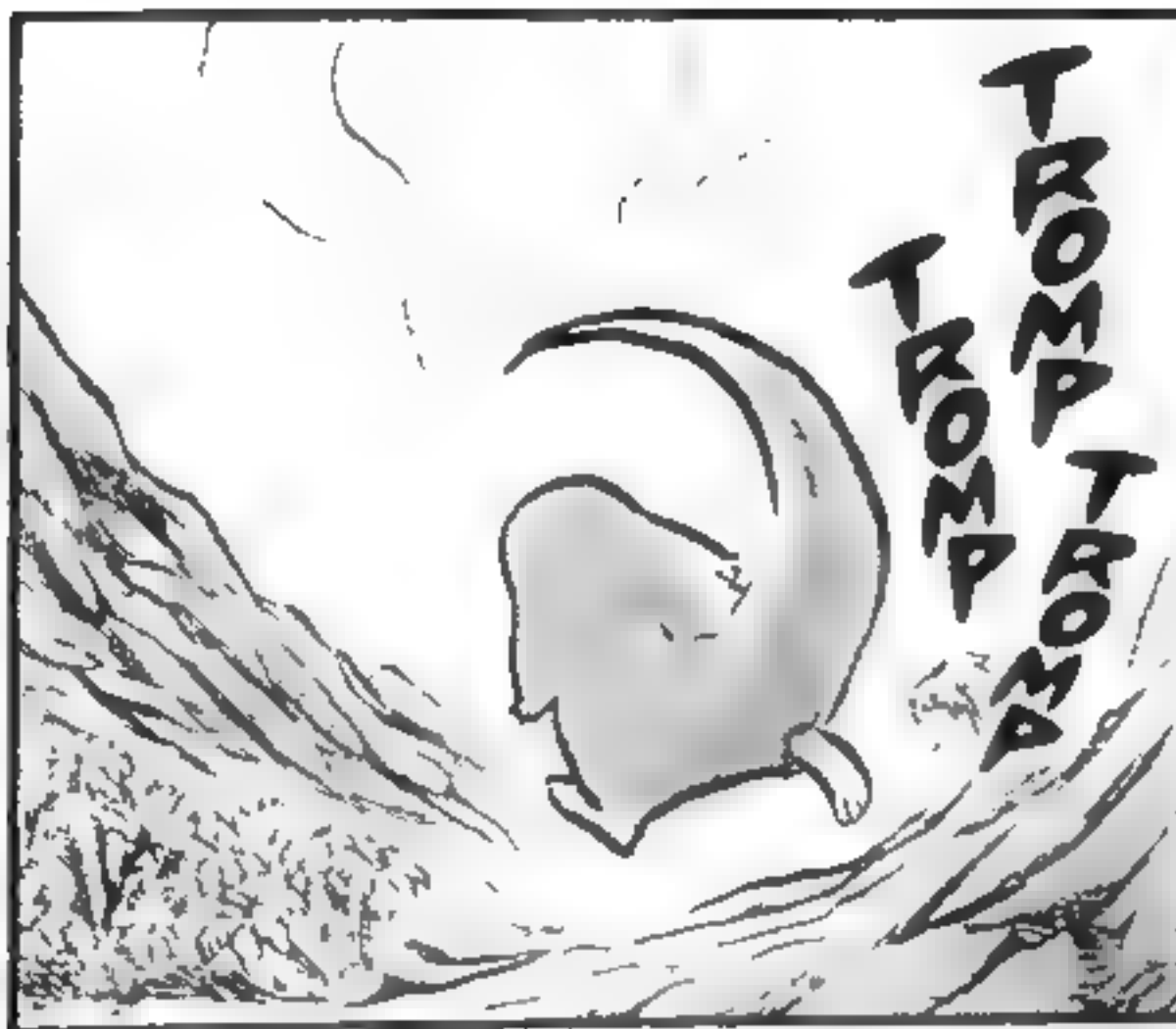


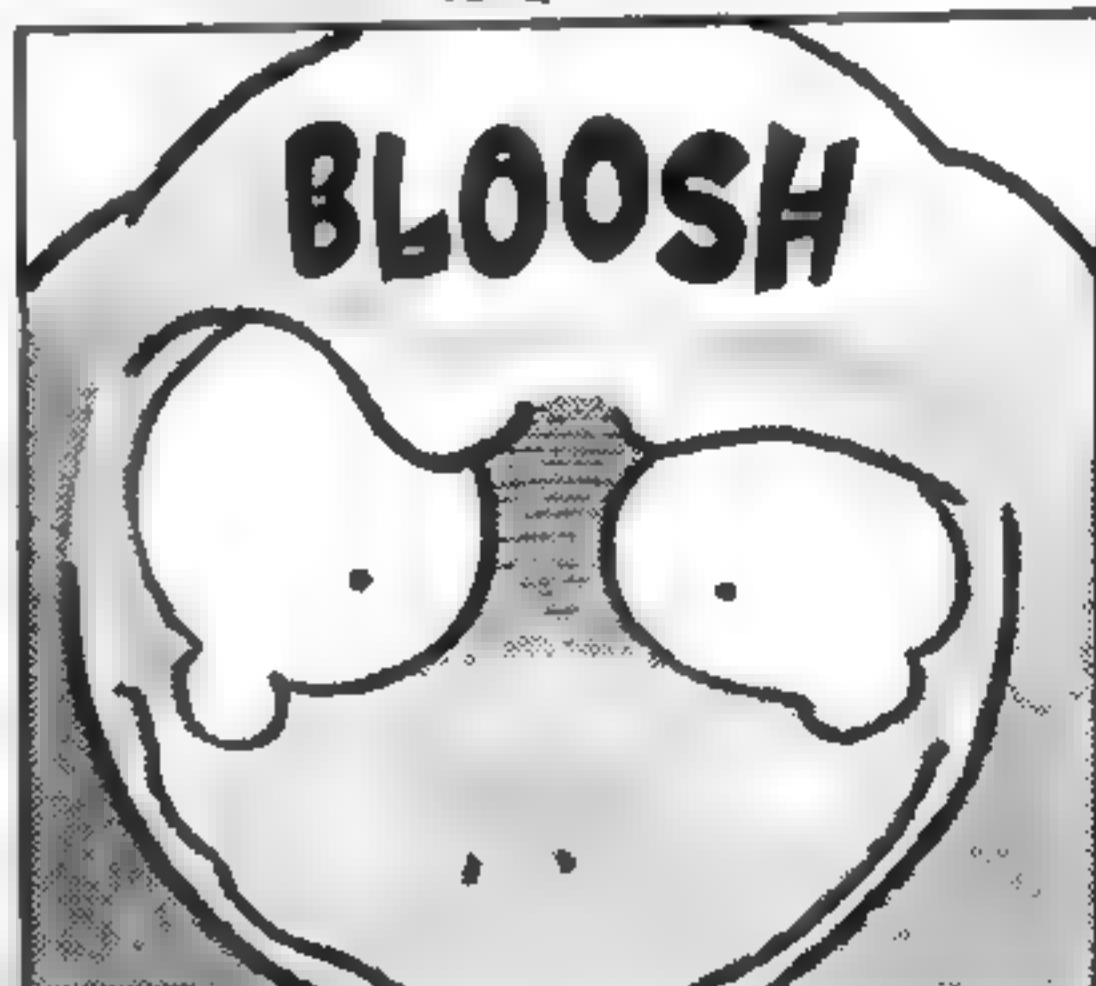
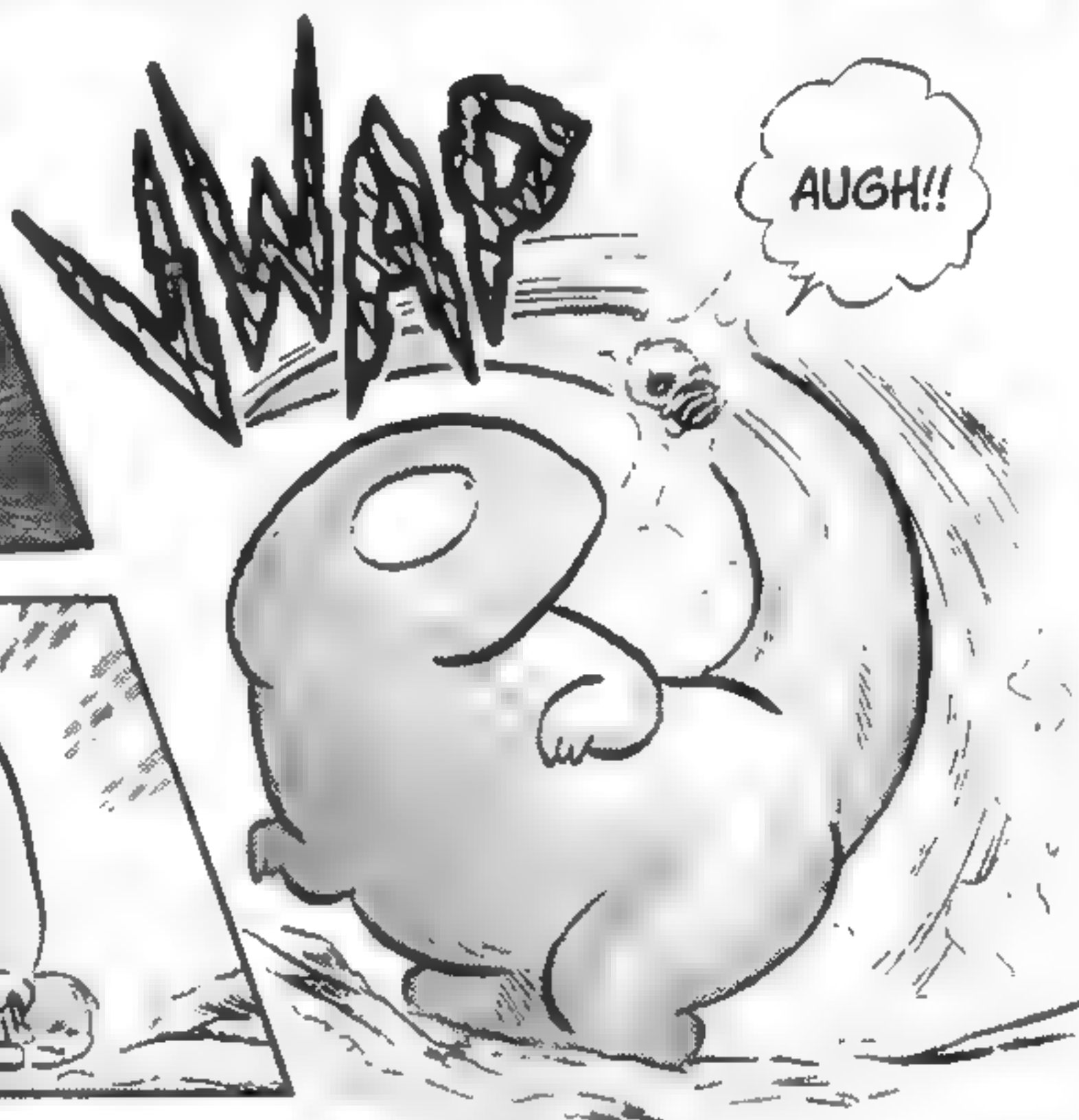


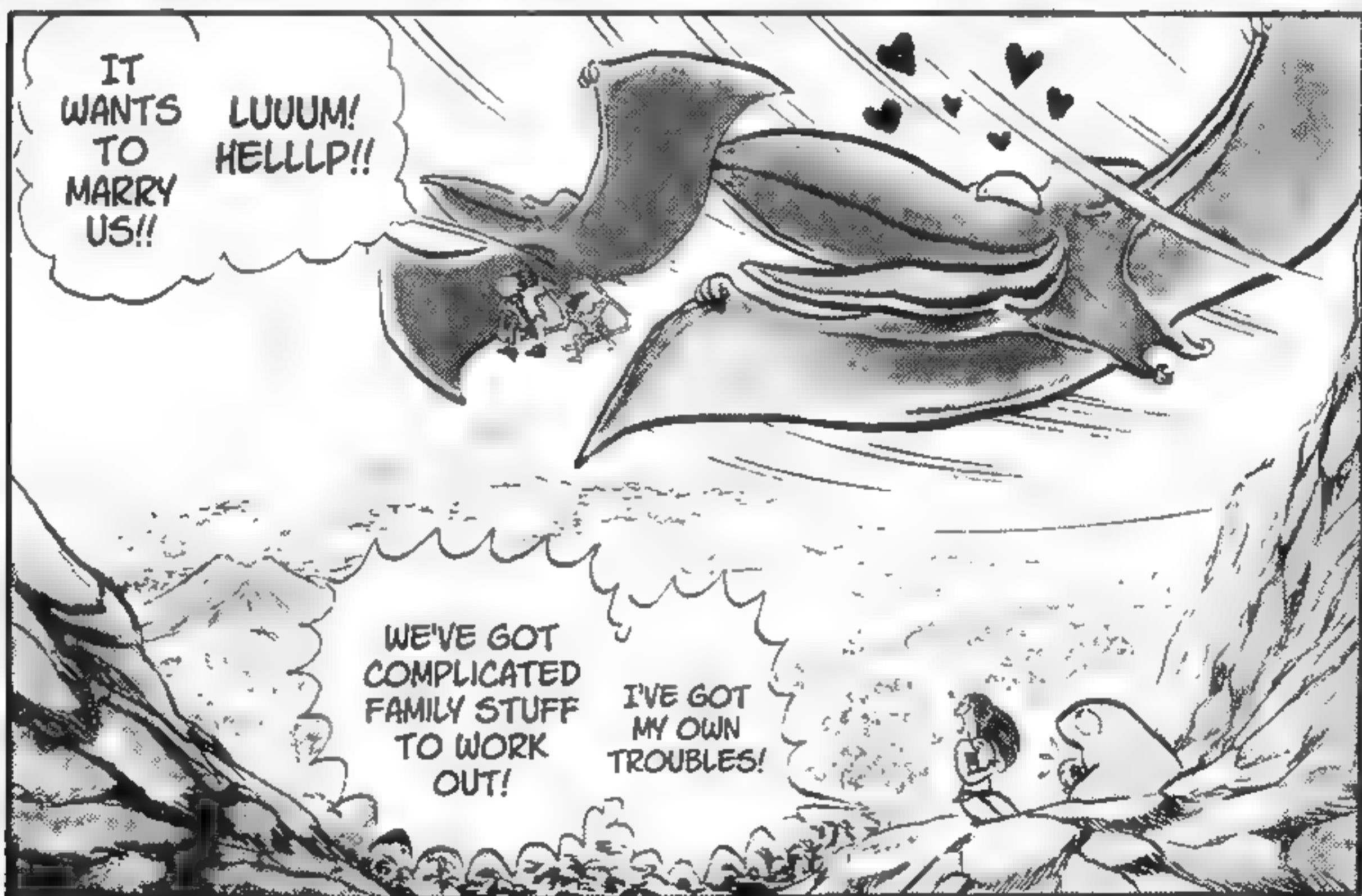
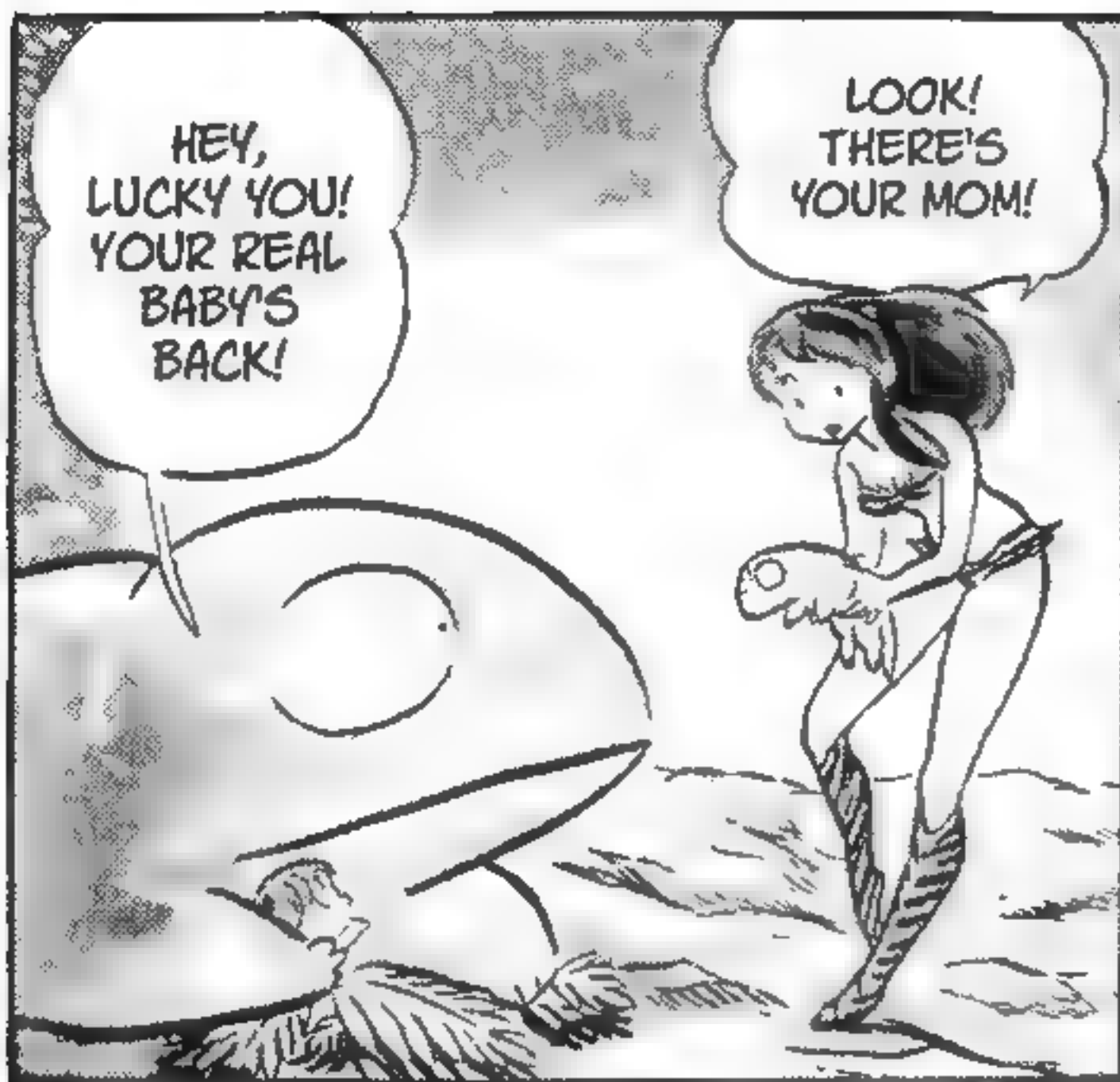






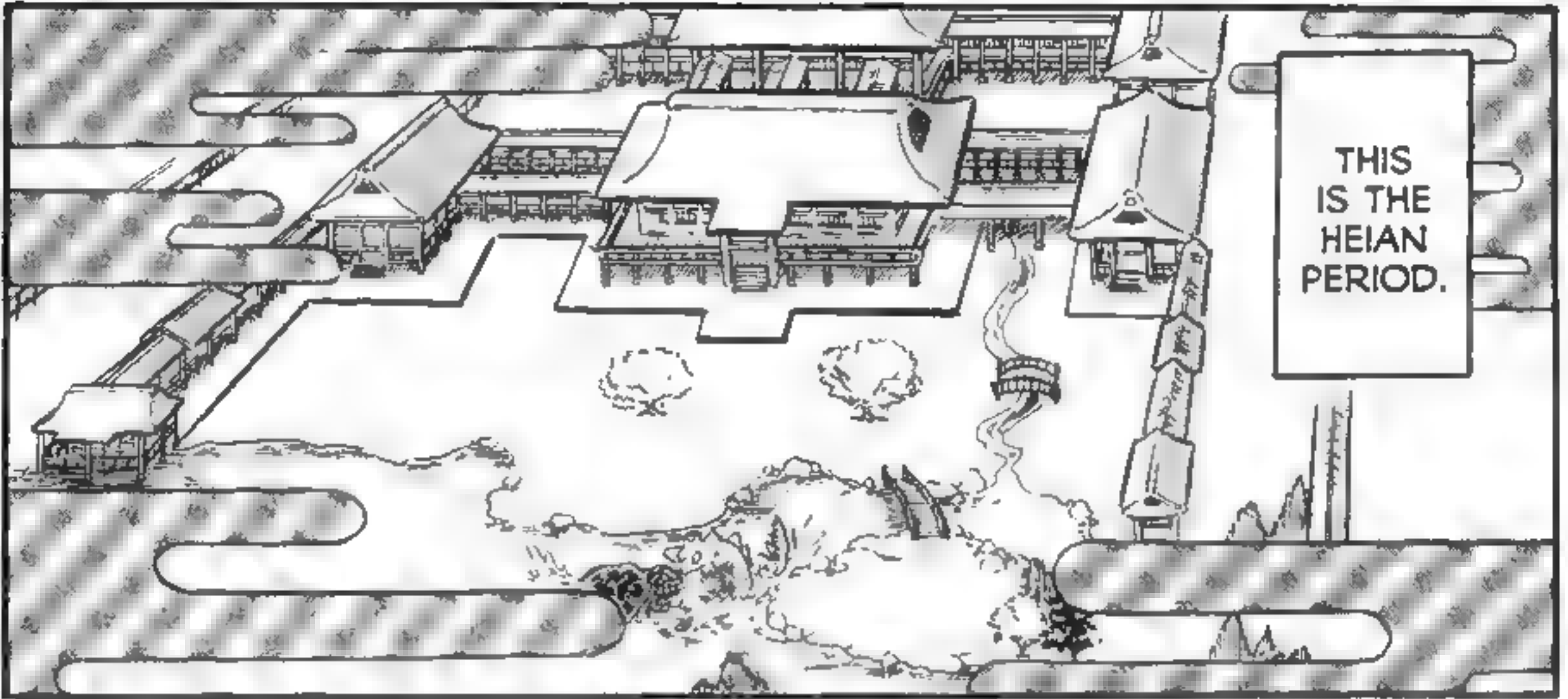




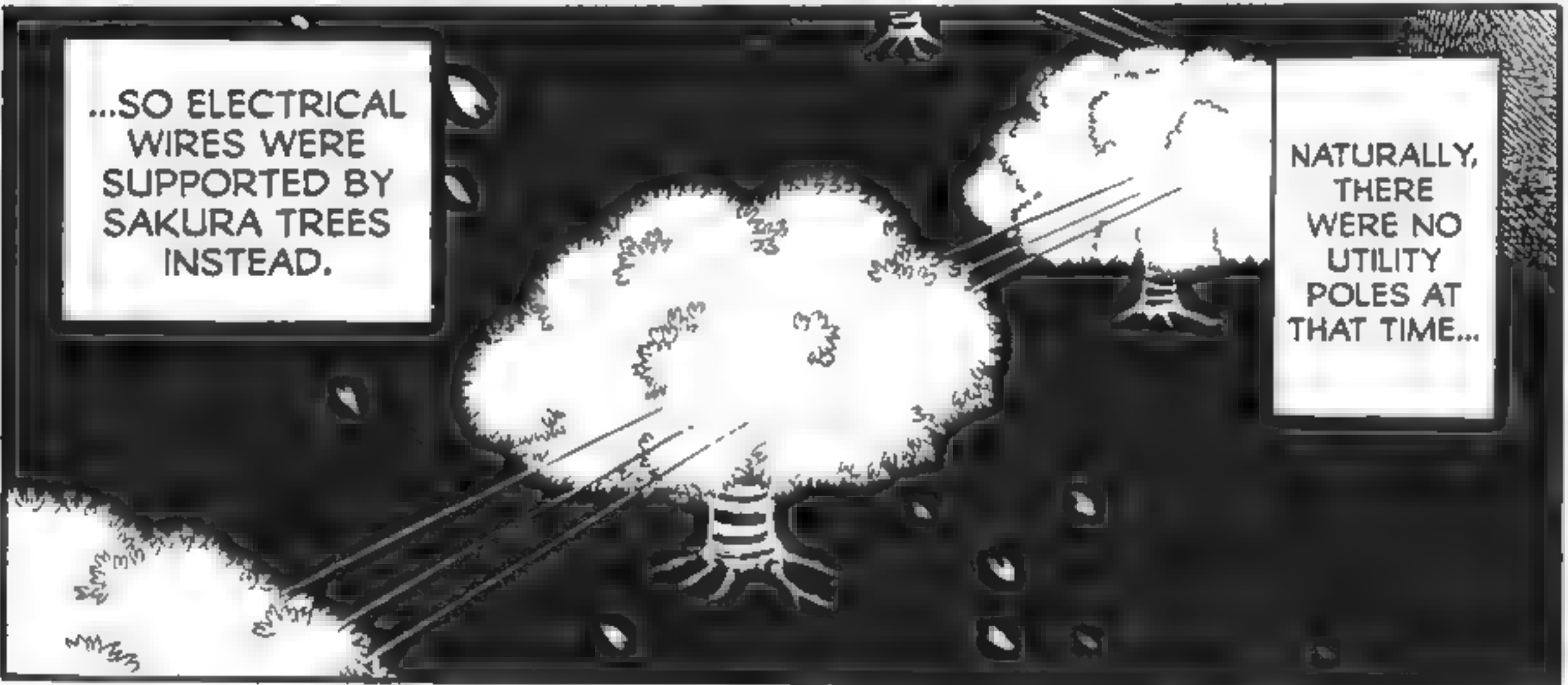


CHAPTER 17: THE HEIAN ARC, SCROLL ONE





THIS
IS THE
HEIAN
PERIOD.



...SO ELECTRICAL
WIRES WERE
SUPPORTED BY
SAKURA TREES
INSTEAD.

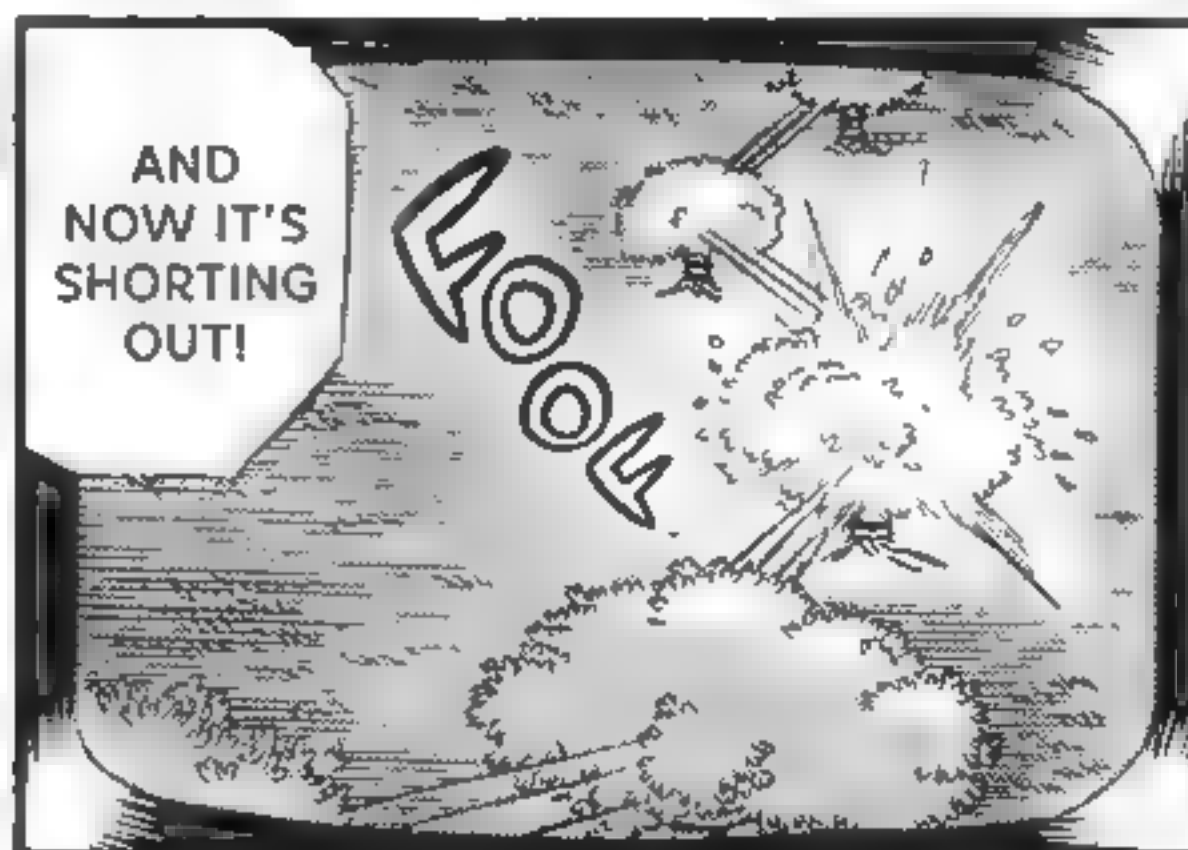
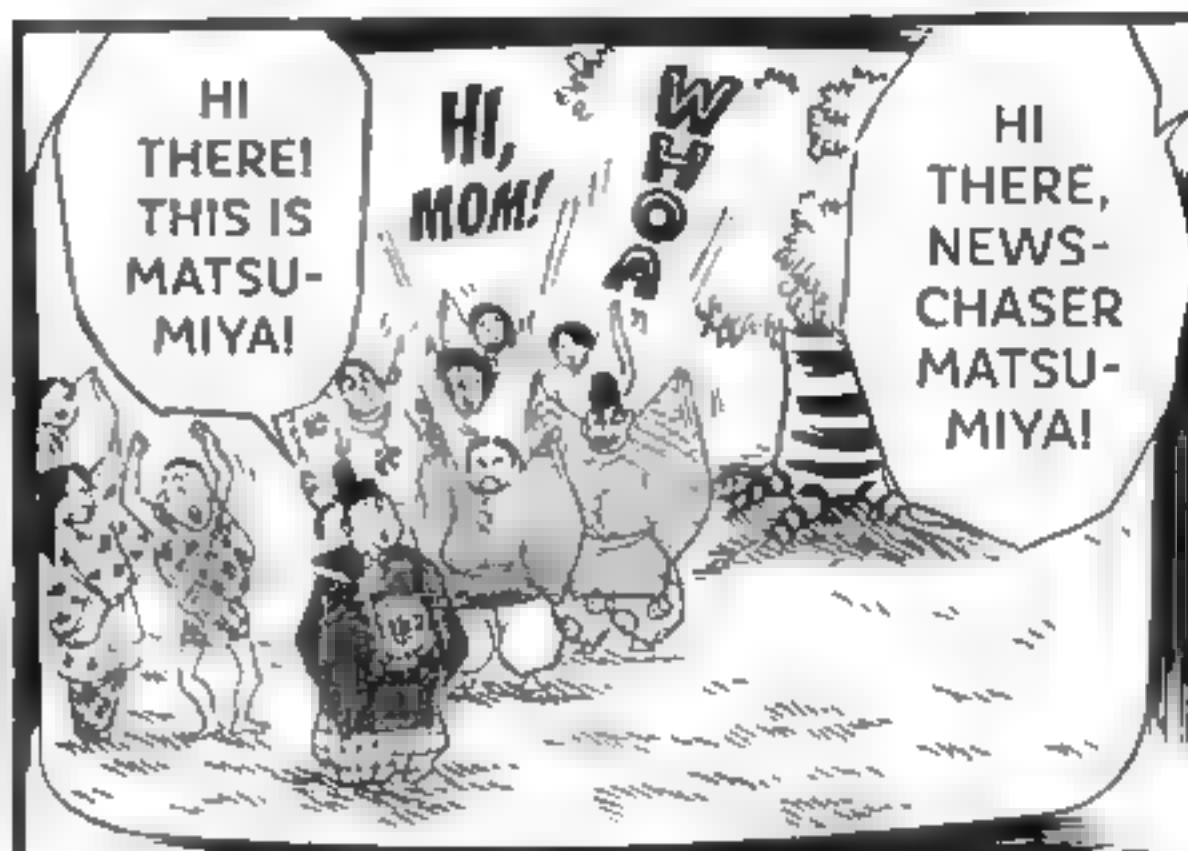
NATURALLY,
THERE
WERE NO
UTILITY
POLES AT
THAT TIME...

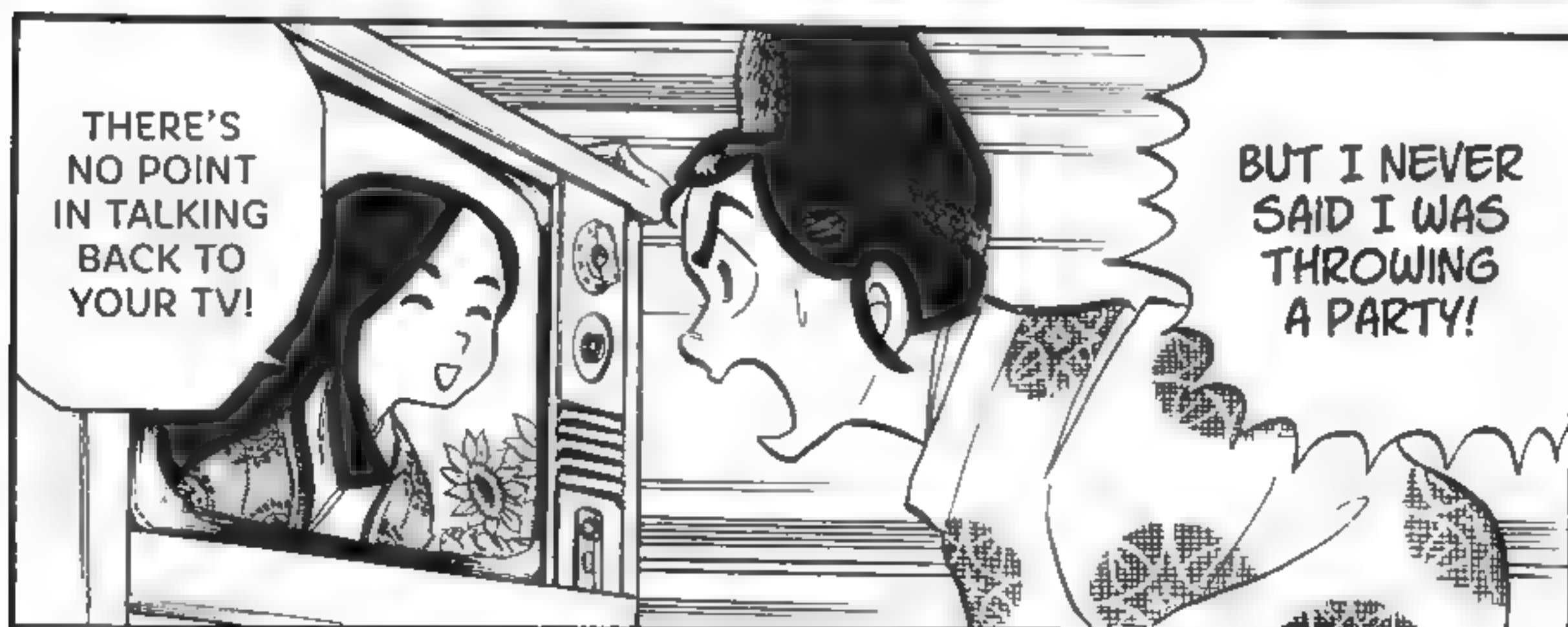


A
GLOWING
SAKURA
TREE?

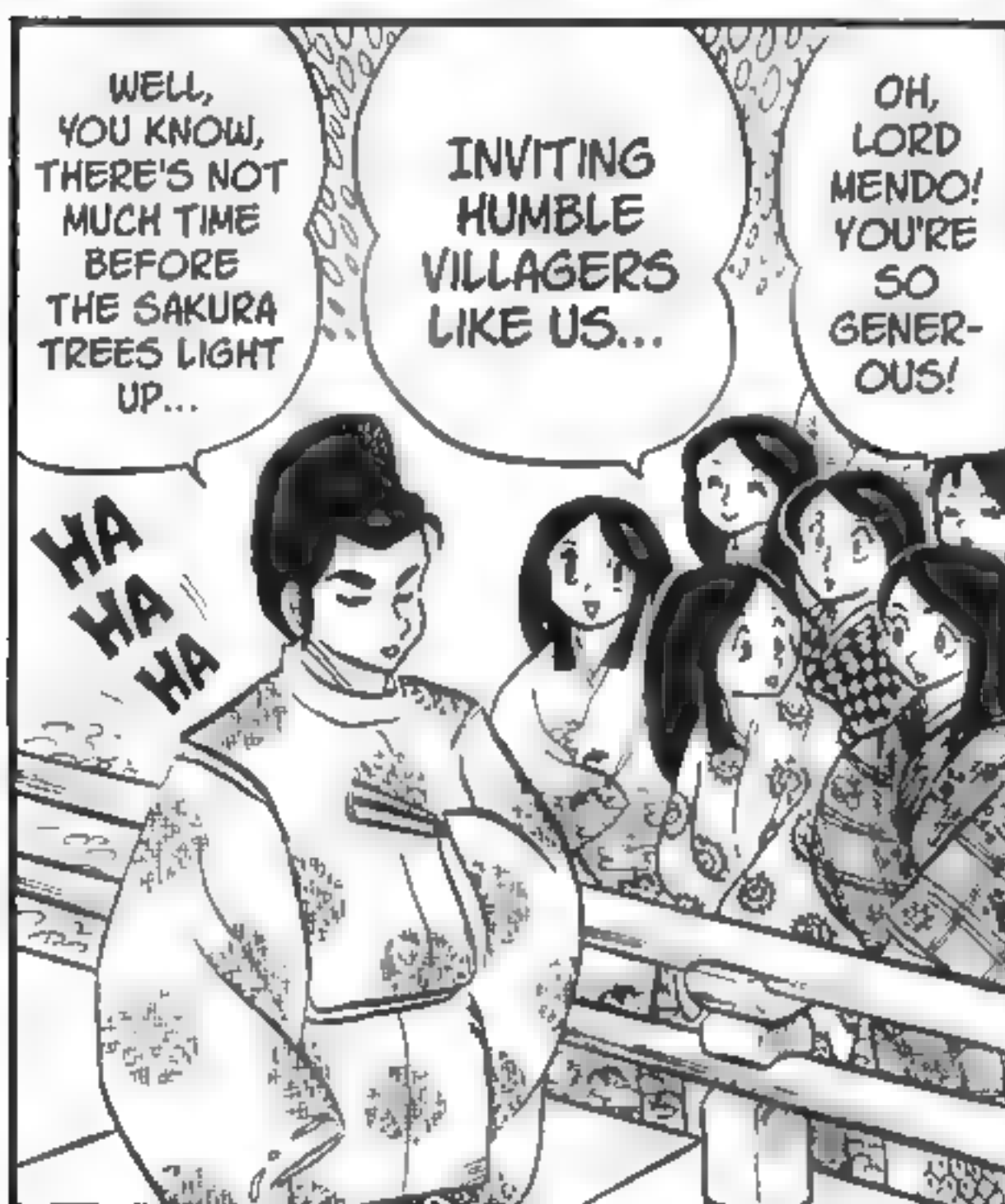
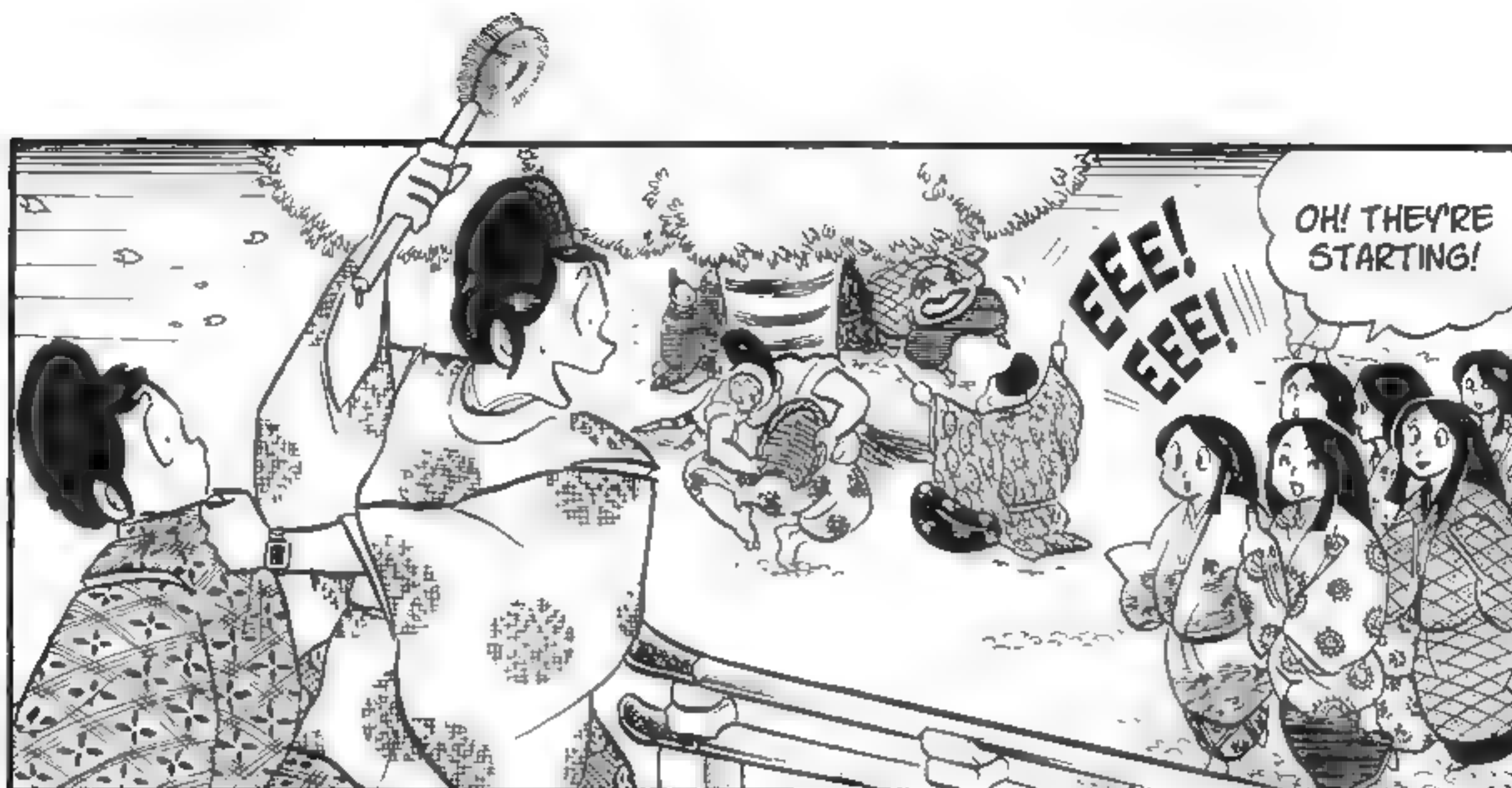
COR-
RECT!

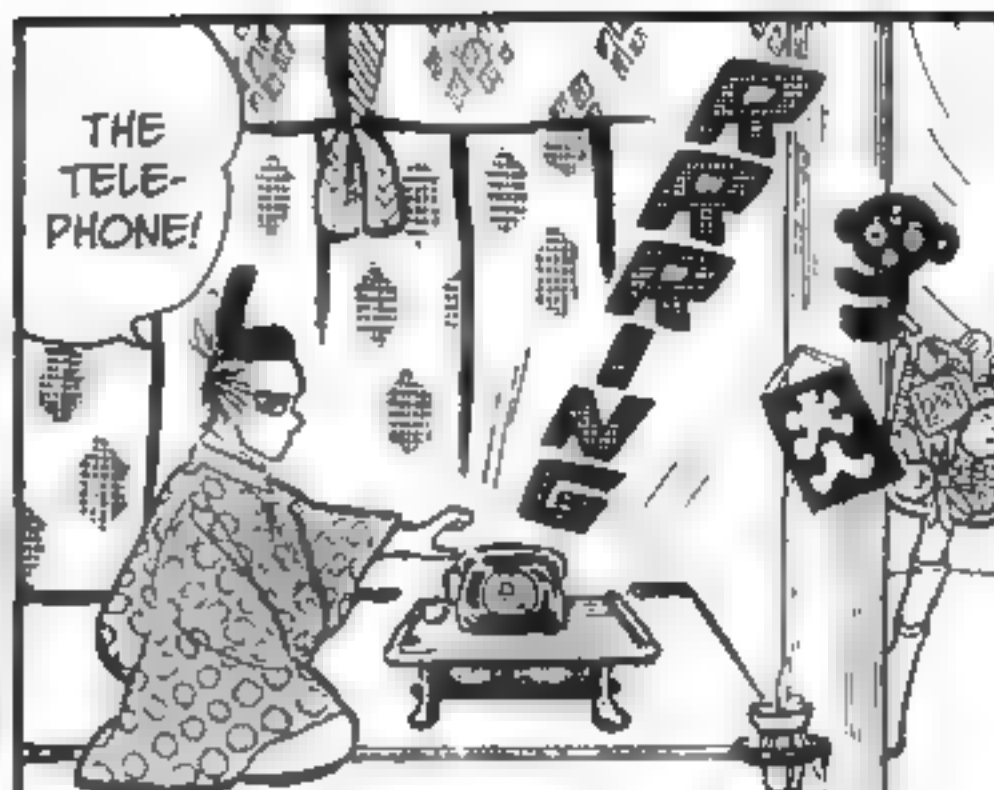
THIS STORY
TAKES
PLACE IN
THAT ERA!



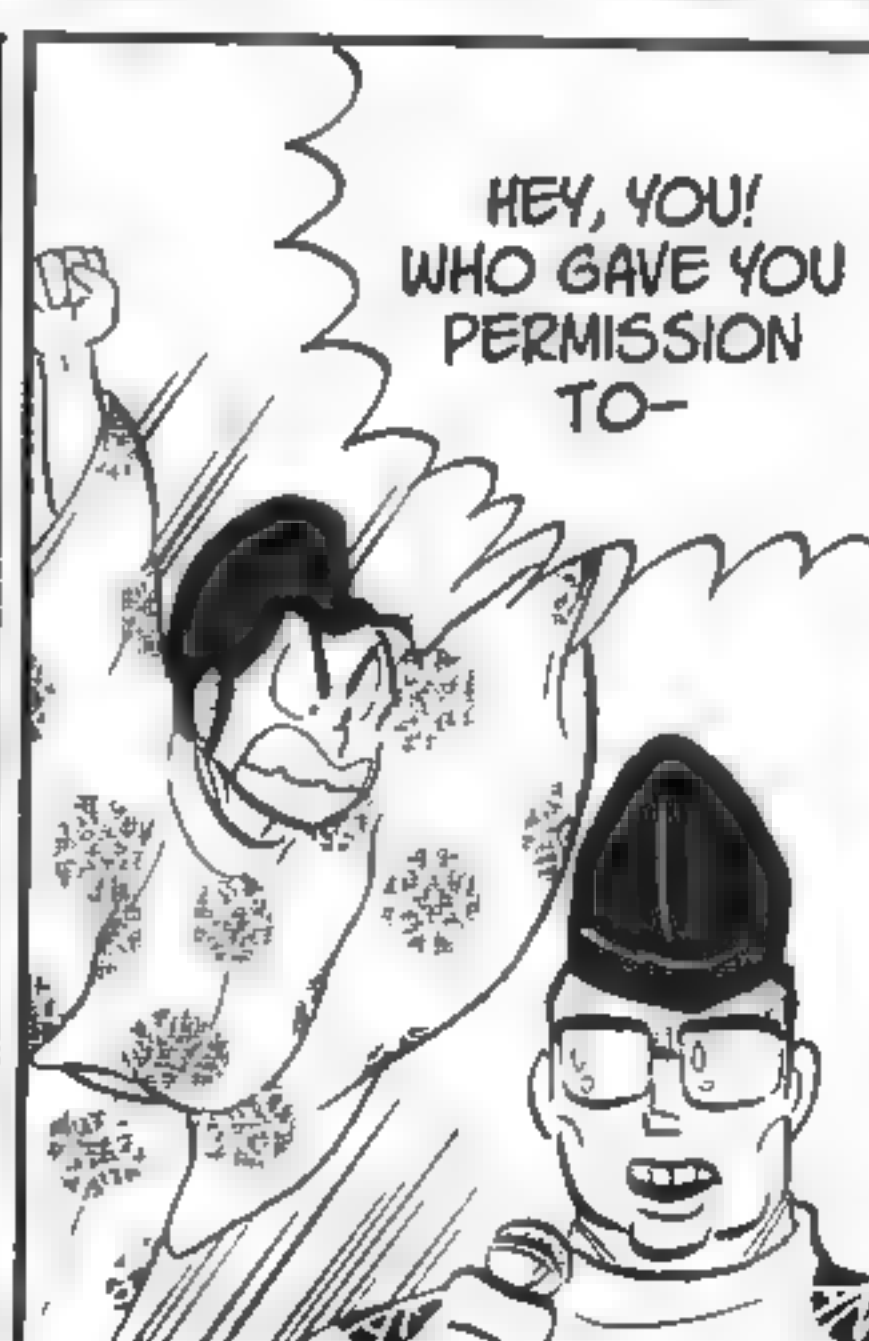
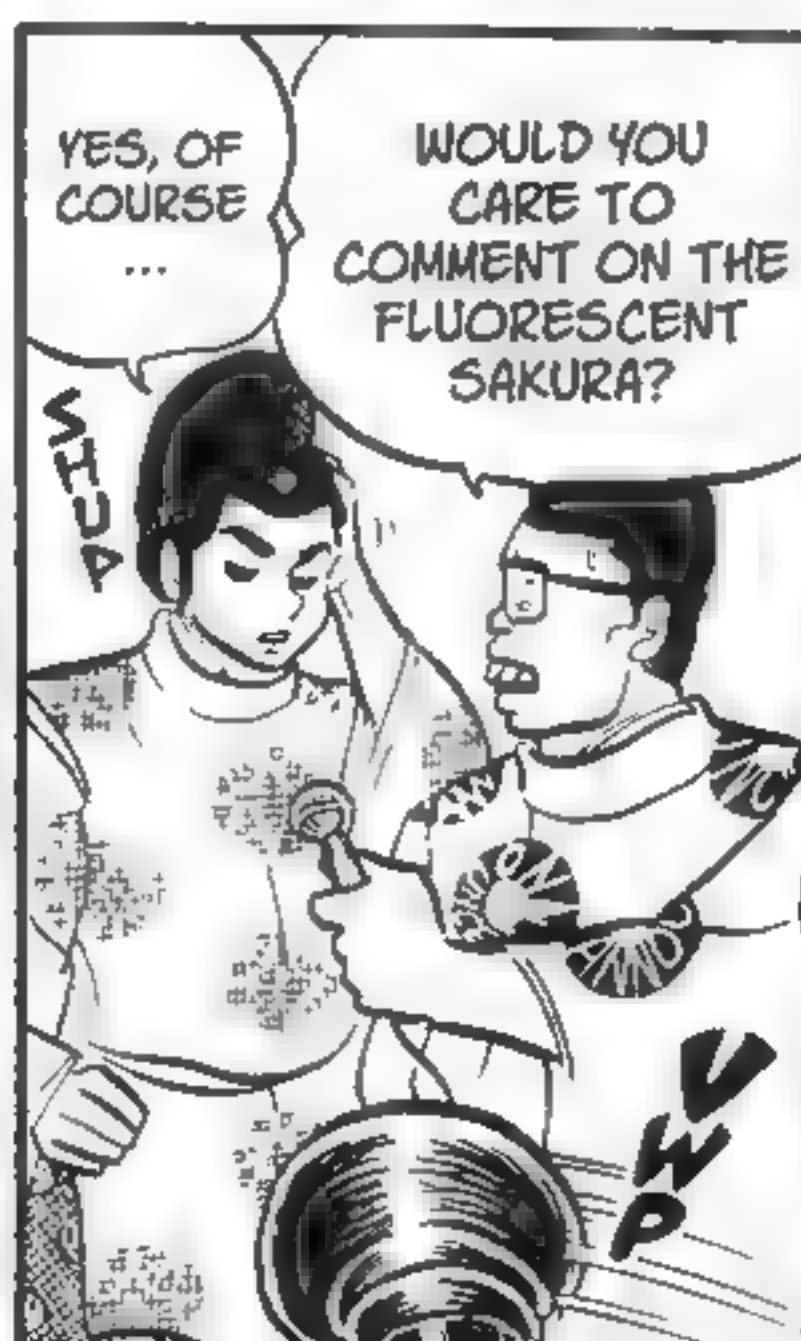




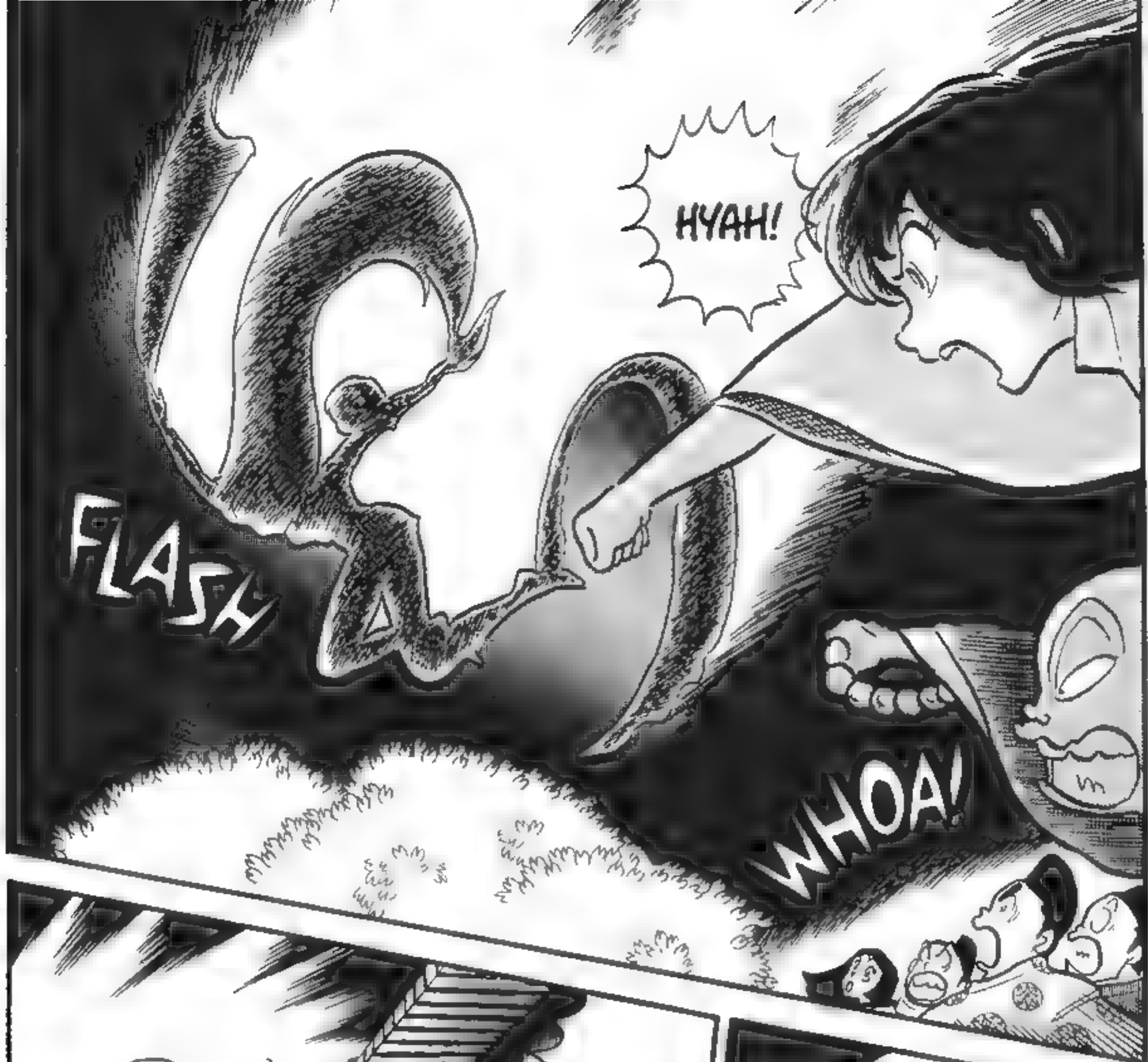




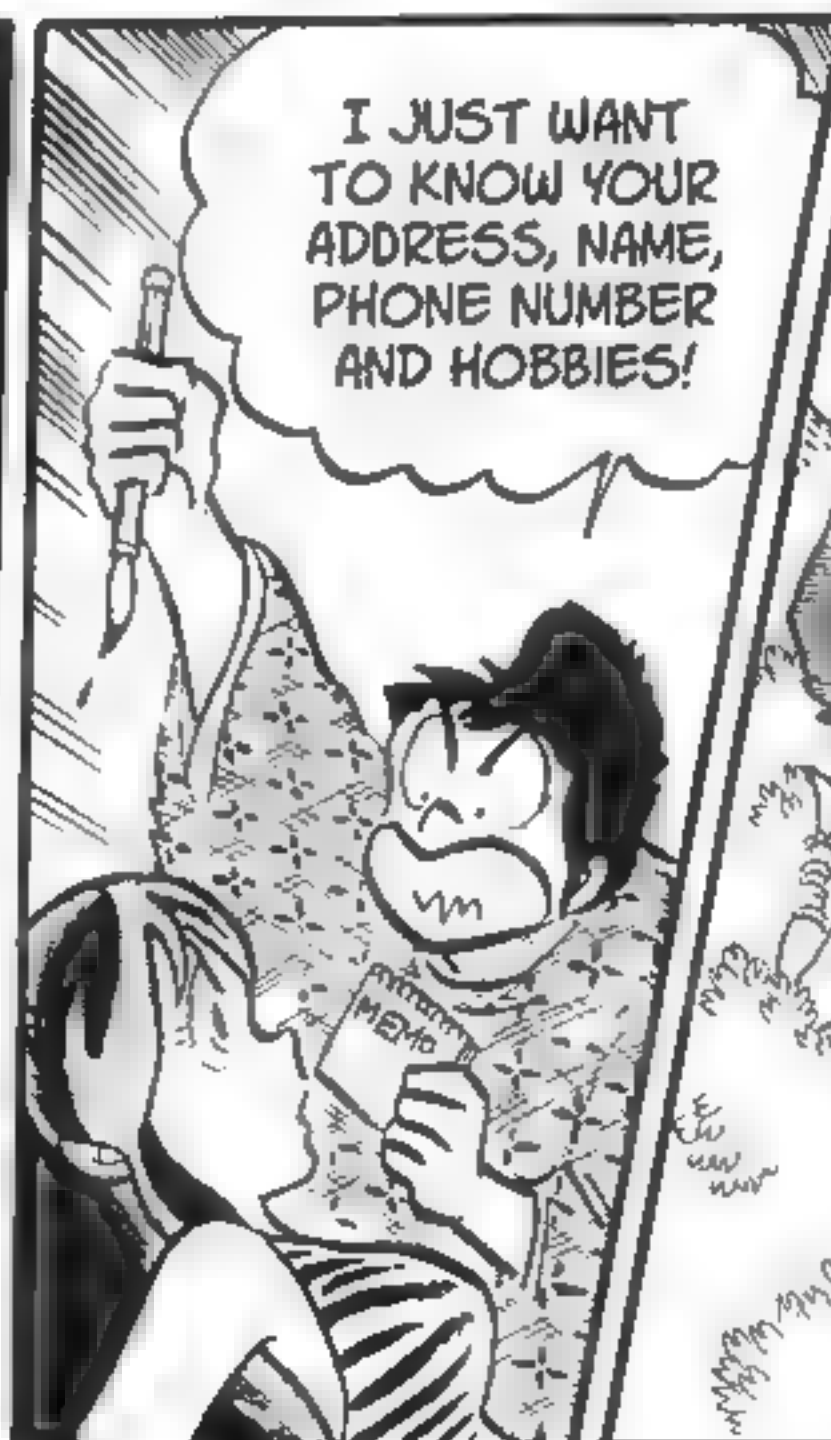


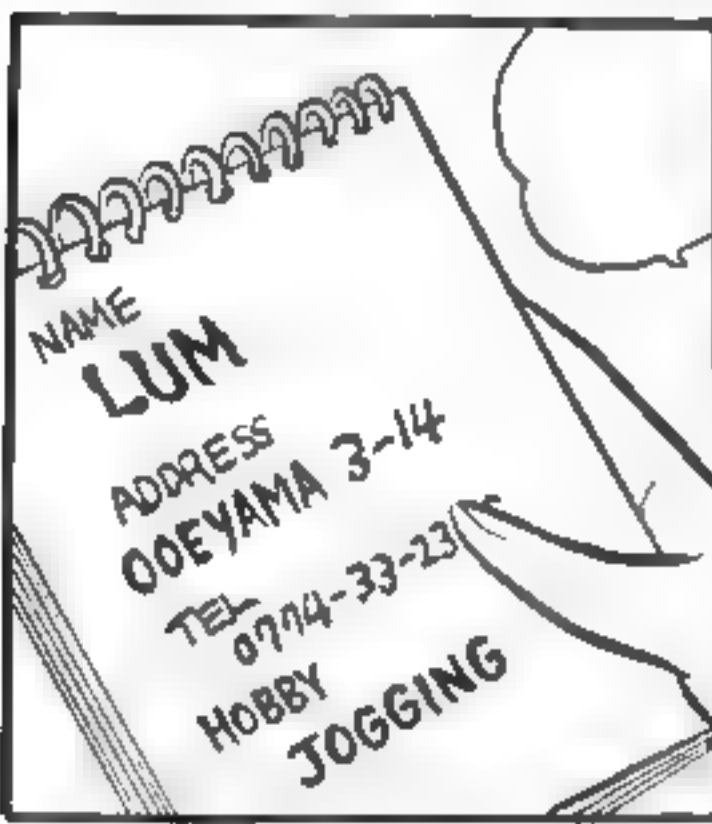
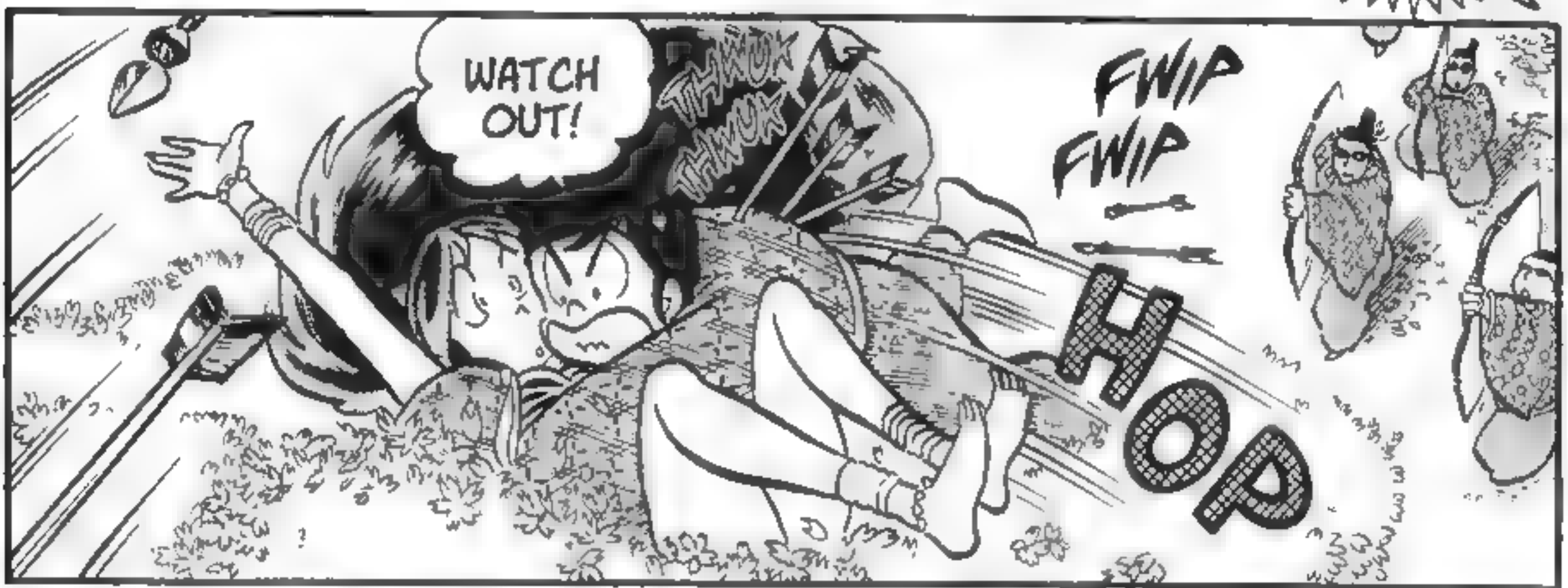


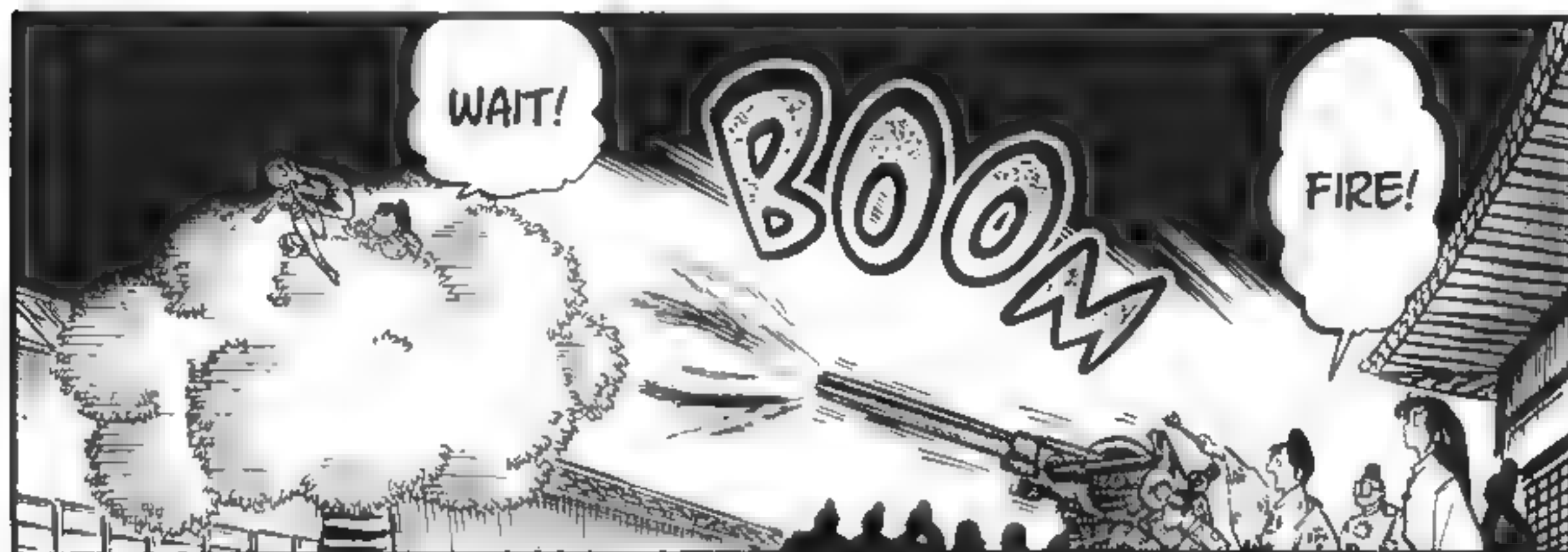


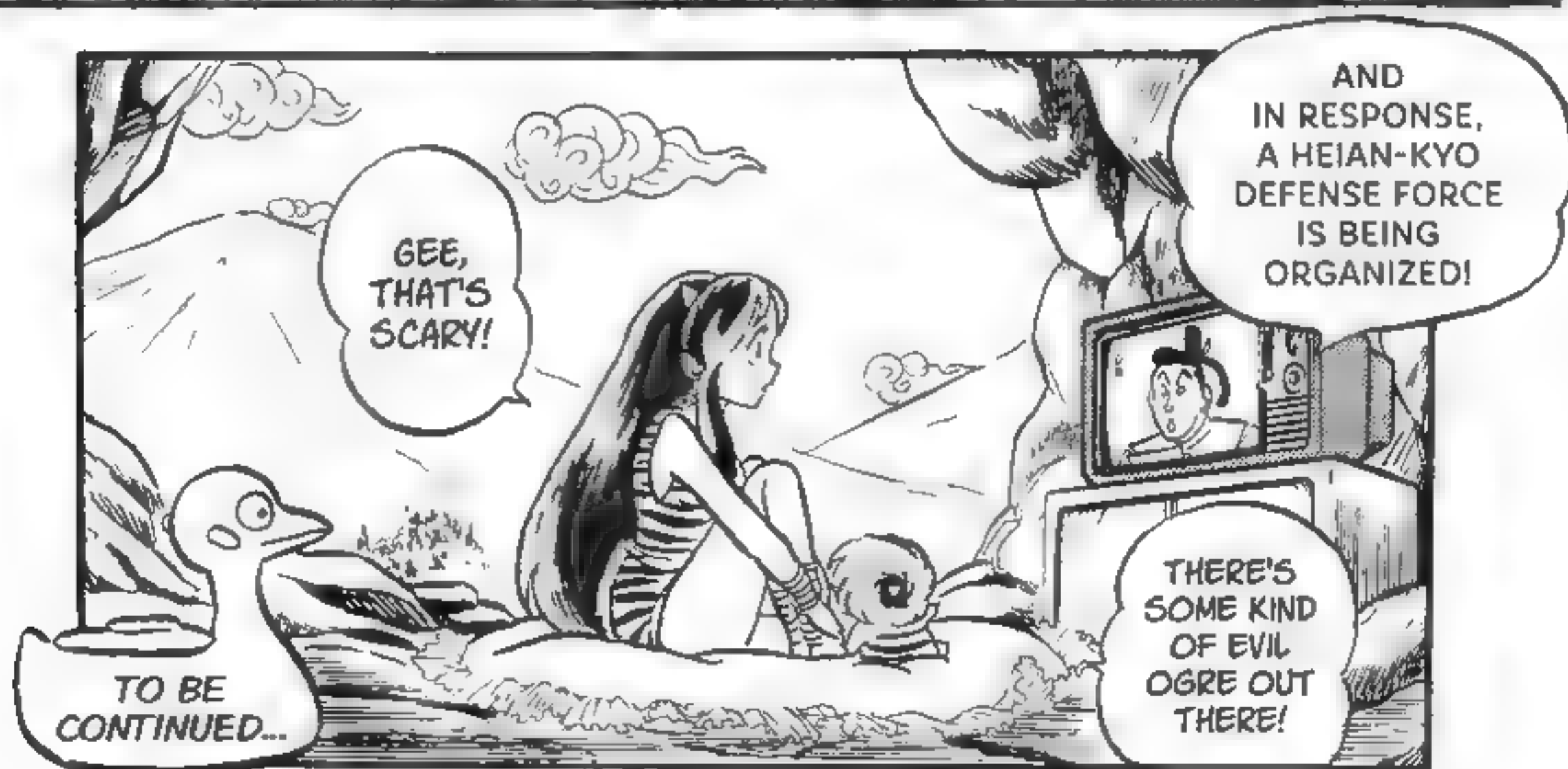






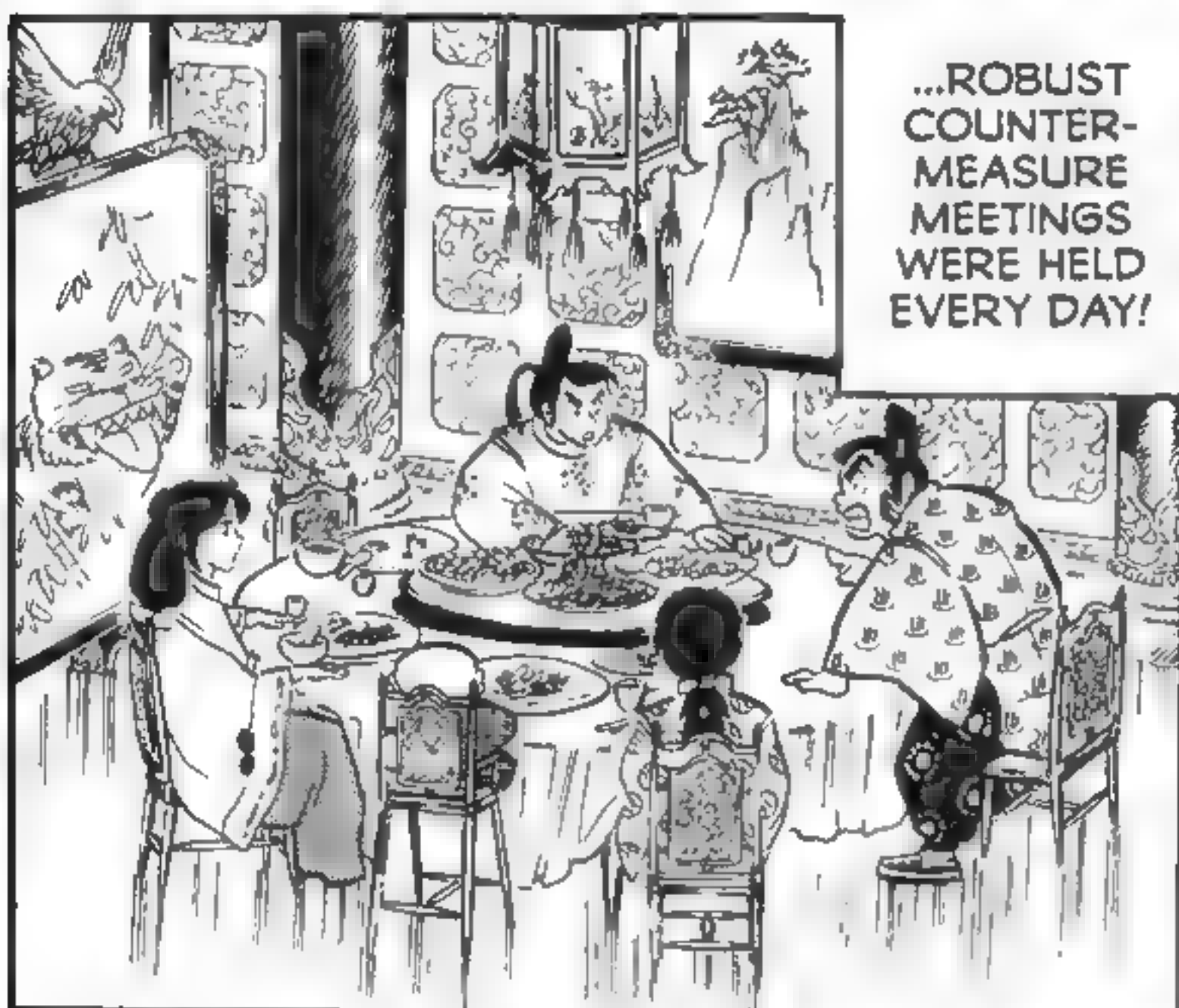
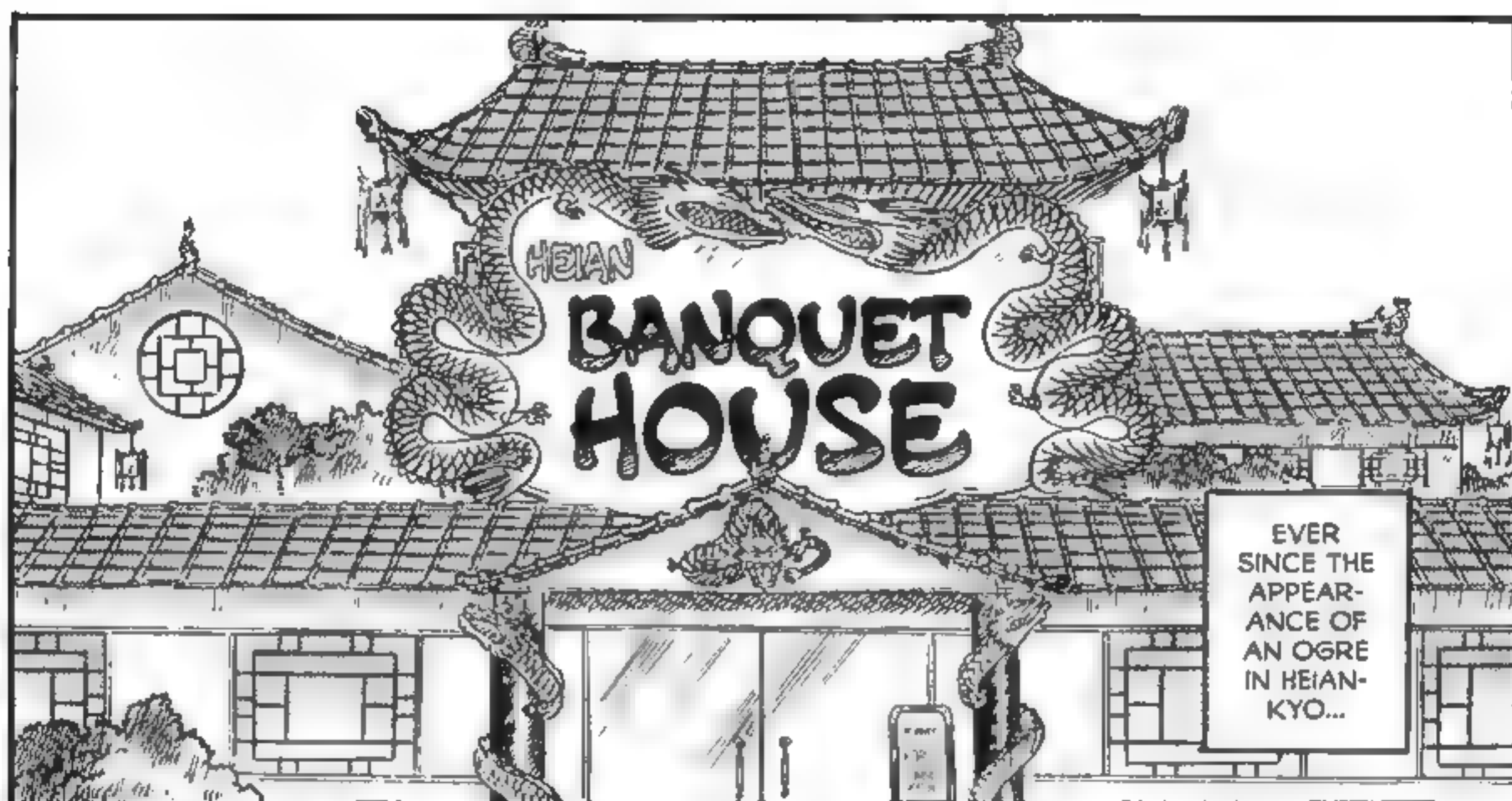






CHAPTER 18: THE HEIAN ARC, SCROLL TWO

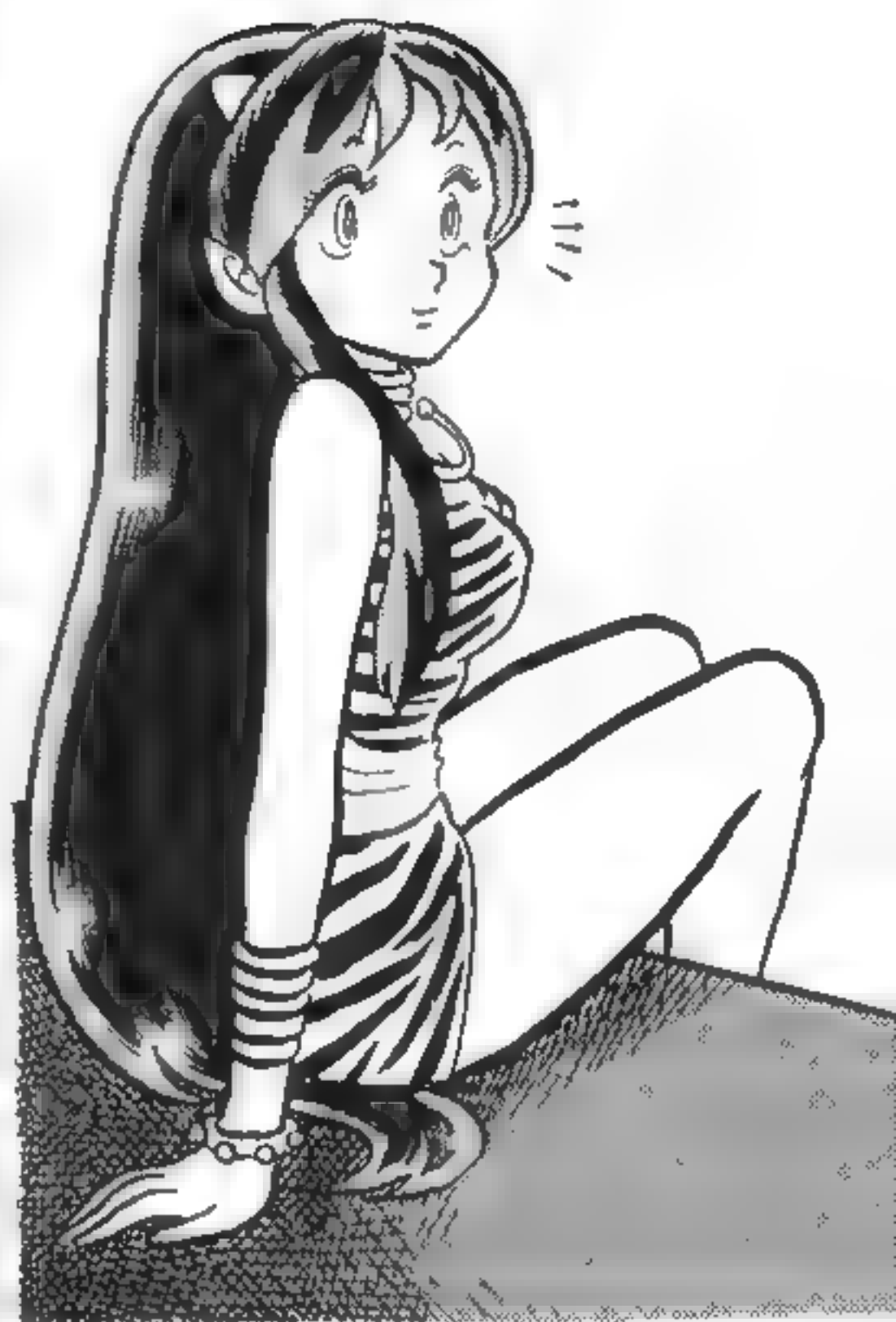


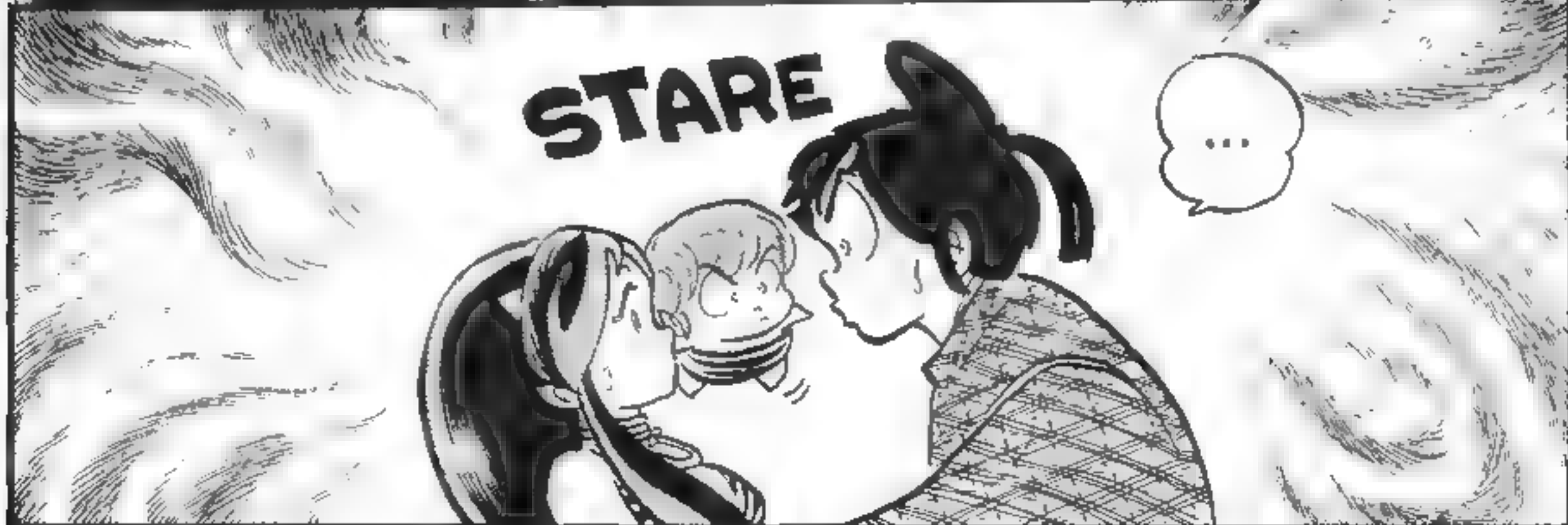
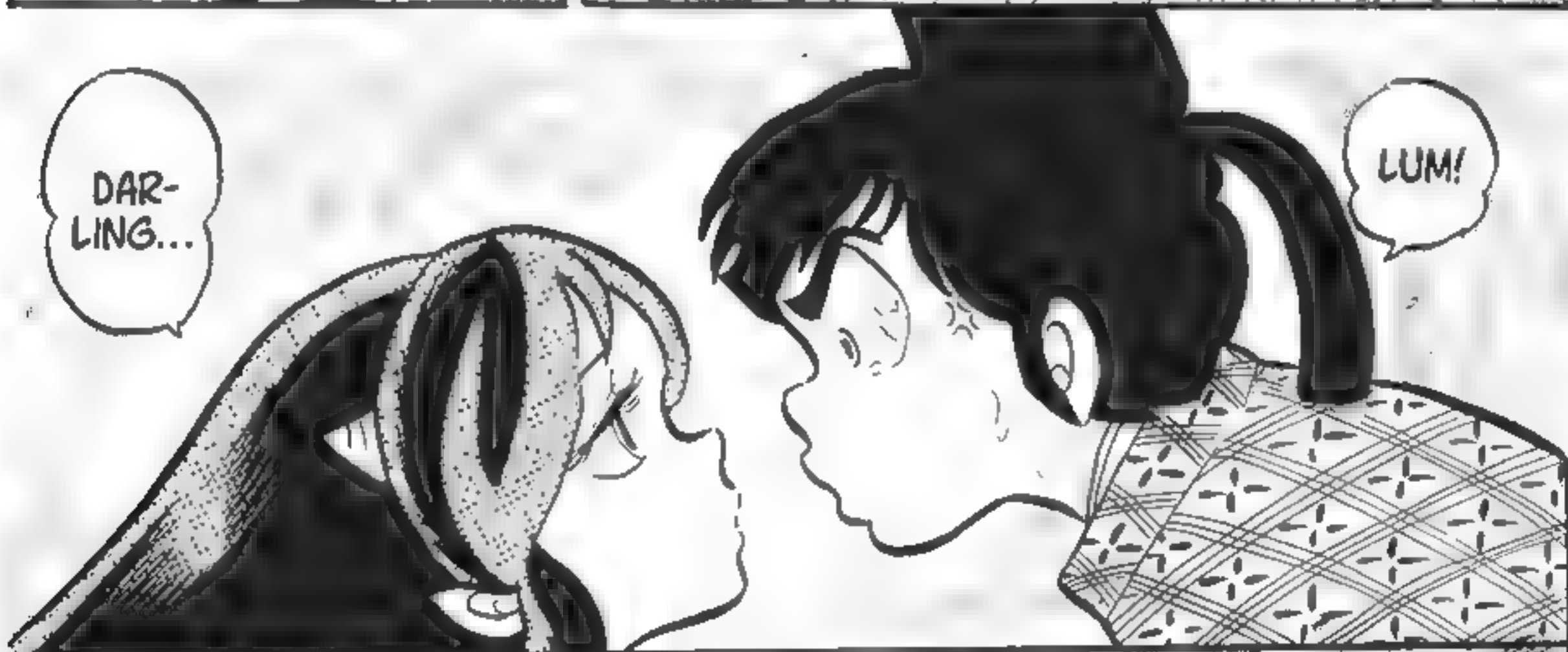












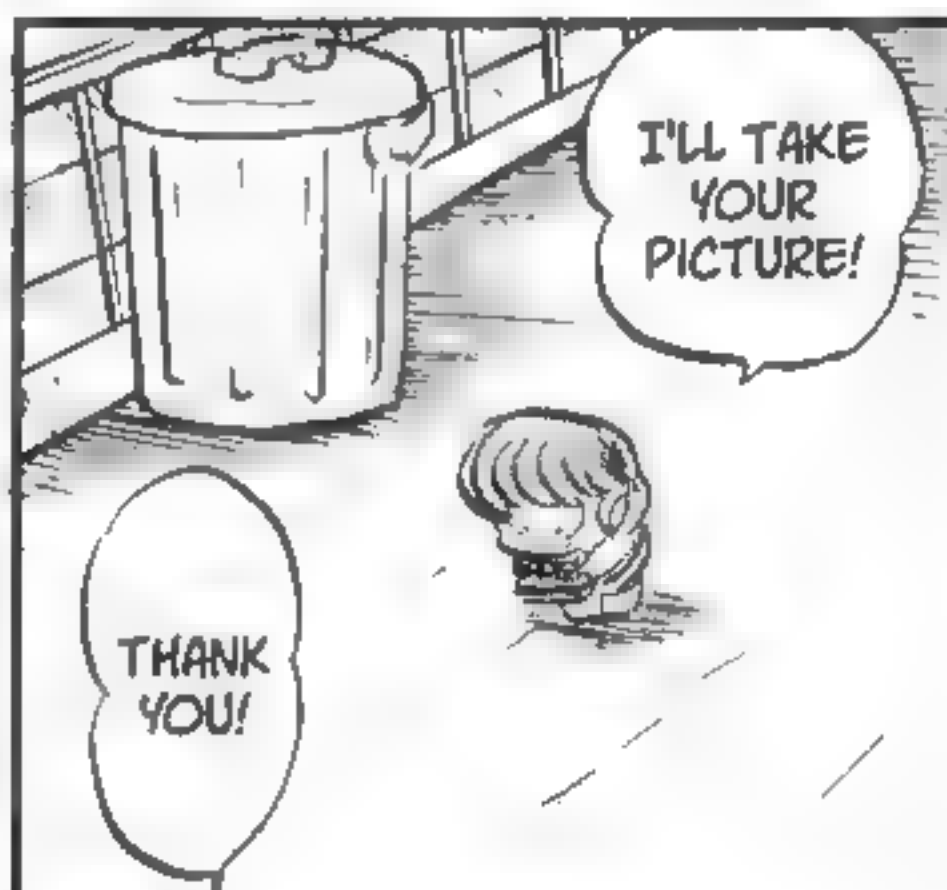
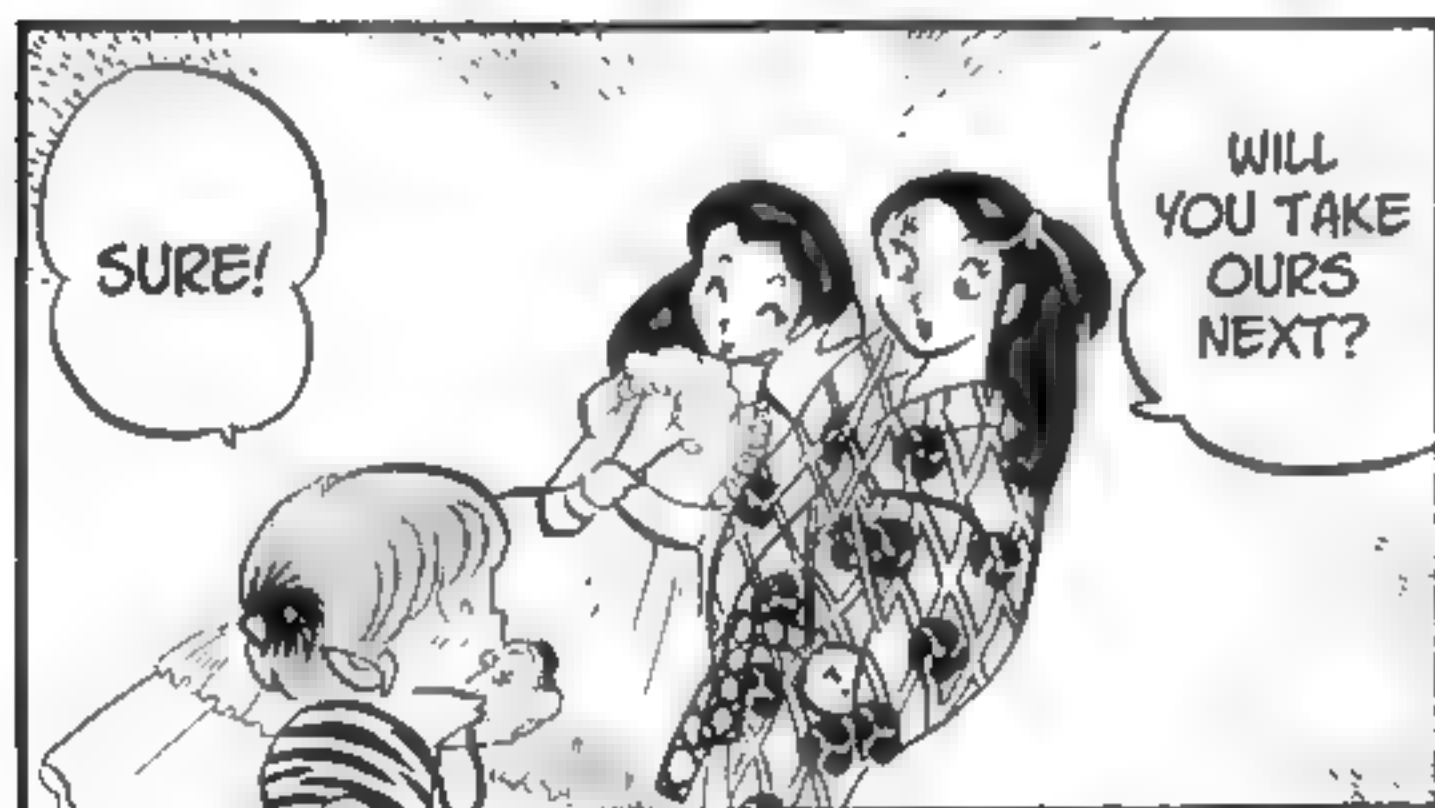










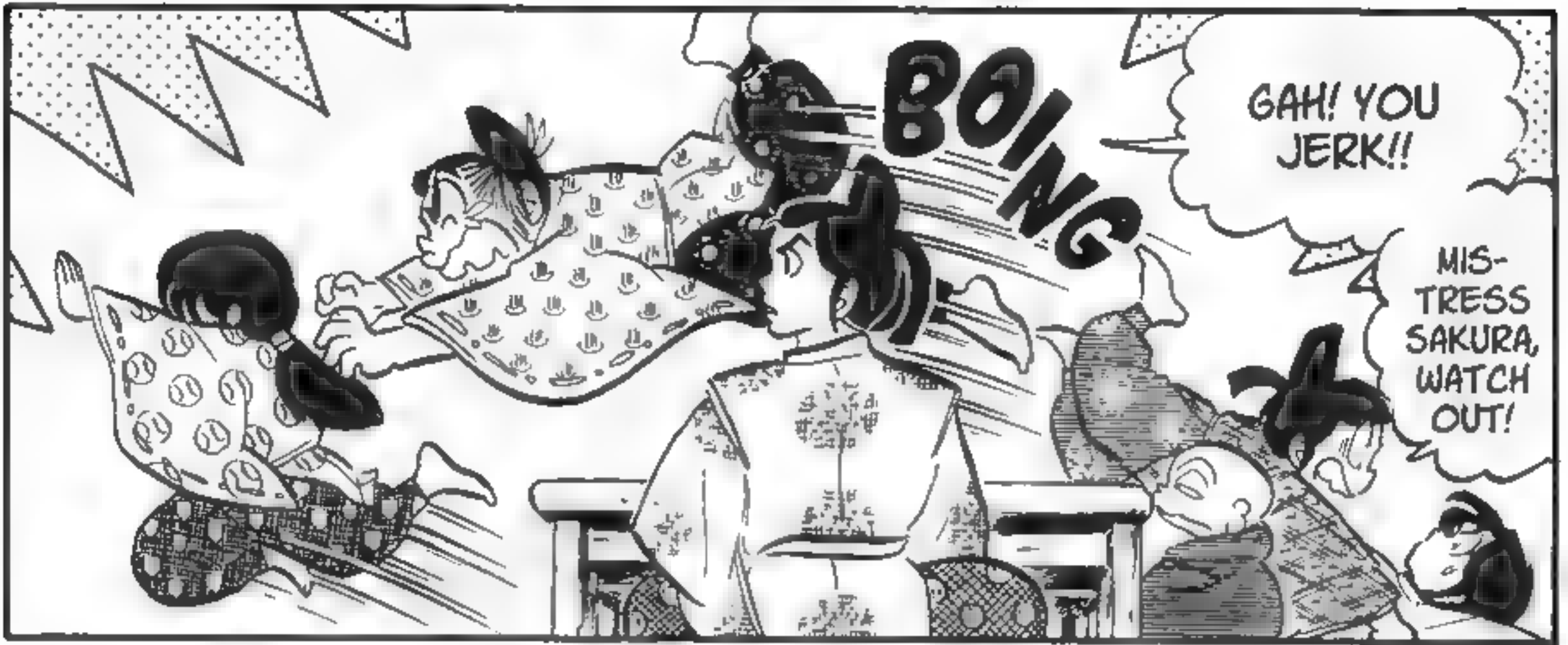






*SUKEBE MEANS PERVERT





CHAPTER 19: THE HEIAN ARC, SCROLL THREE





IN YEAR 2
OF THE CHOWA
PERIOD (1013 CE),
THE SKY ABOVE
HEIAN-KYO WAS
COVERED IN
DARK CLOUDS
AND EMITTING
CURIOUS CRIES...



TEN!
WHERE
ARE
YOU?!

THE
PEOPLE
FELL
IMMEDI-
ATELY
INTO A
PANIC!!

-THE
HEIAN-
KYO
CHRON-
ICLES

R
R
U
M
B
L

H
E
E
H
I
I
N

G
U
M
O
N

G
U
E
E
E

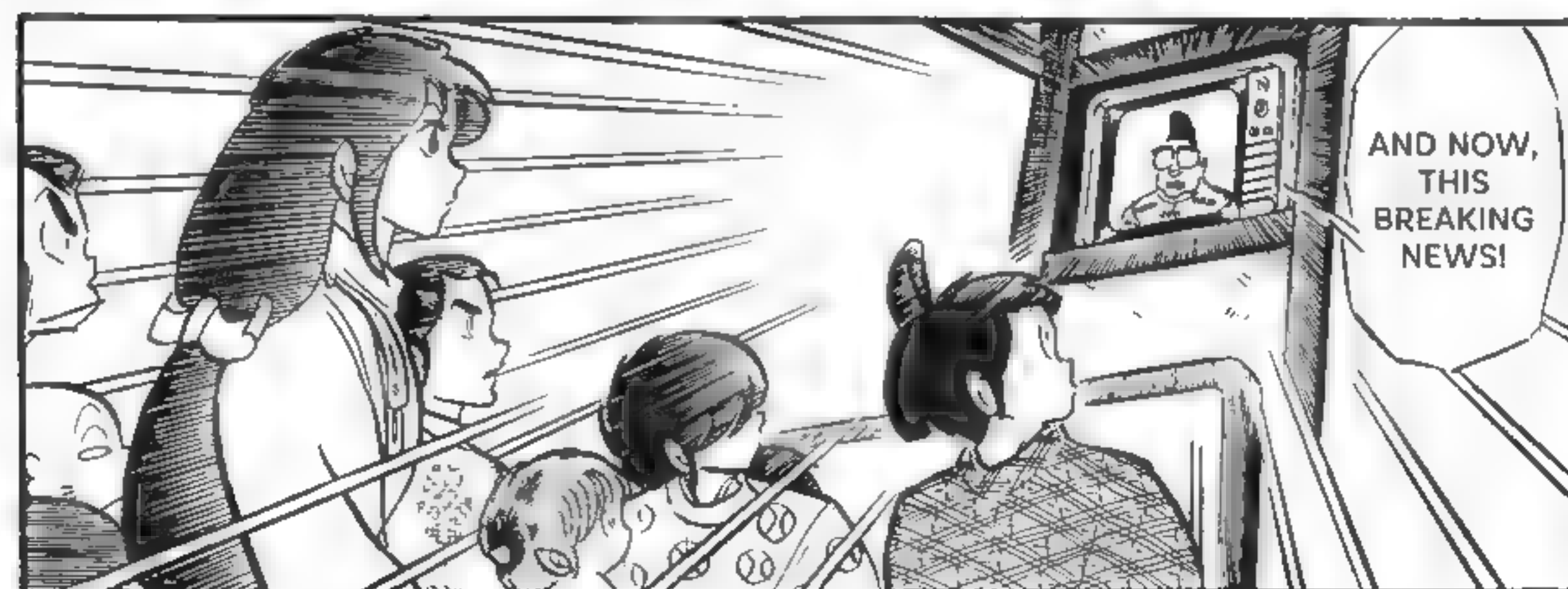
D
O
K
Y
A
A
A

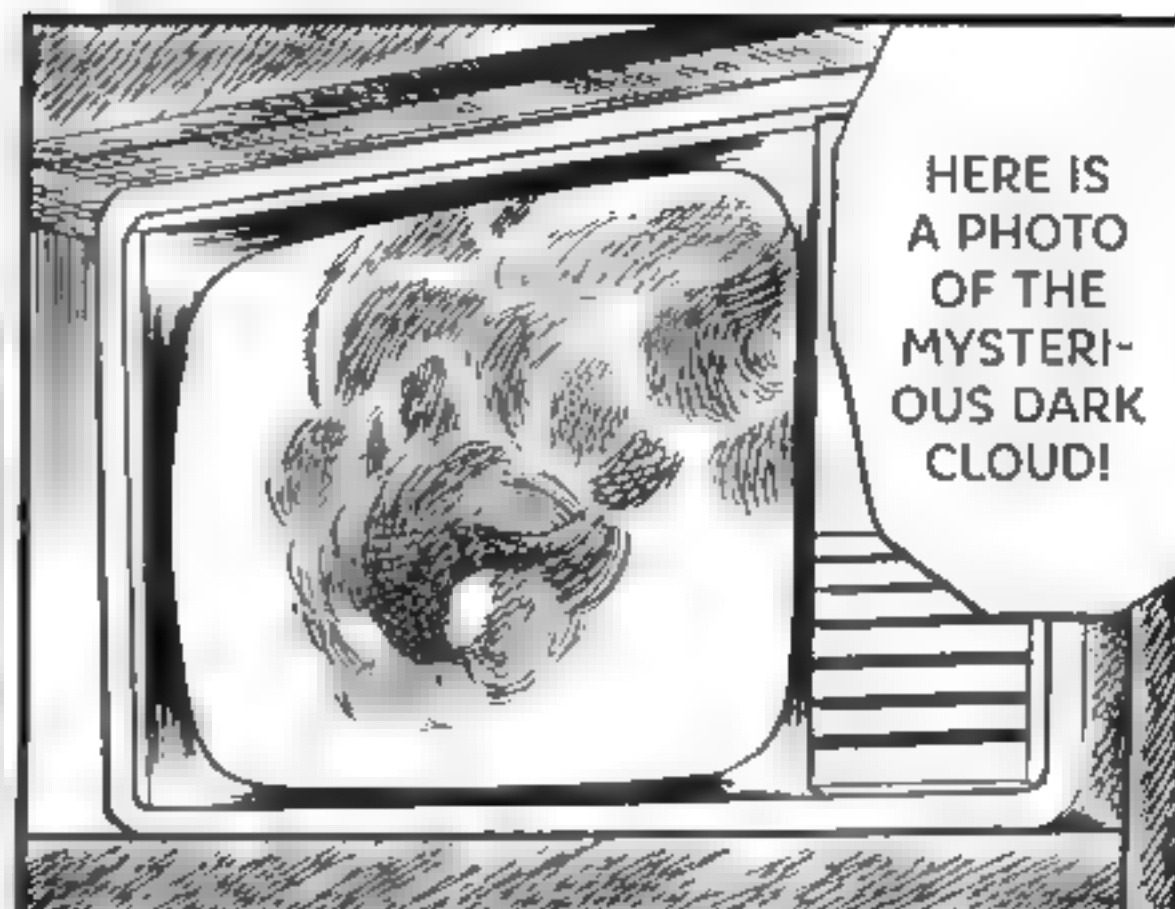
THE
WORLD
IS
ENDING!

IT
MUST
BE THE
OGRE!

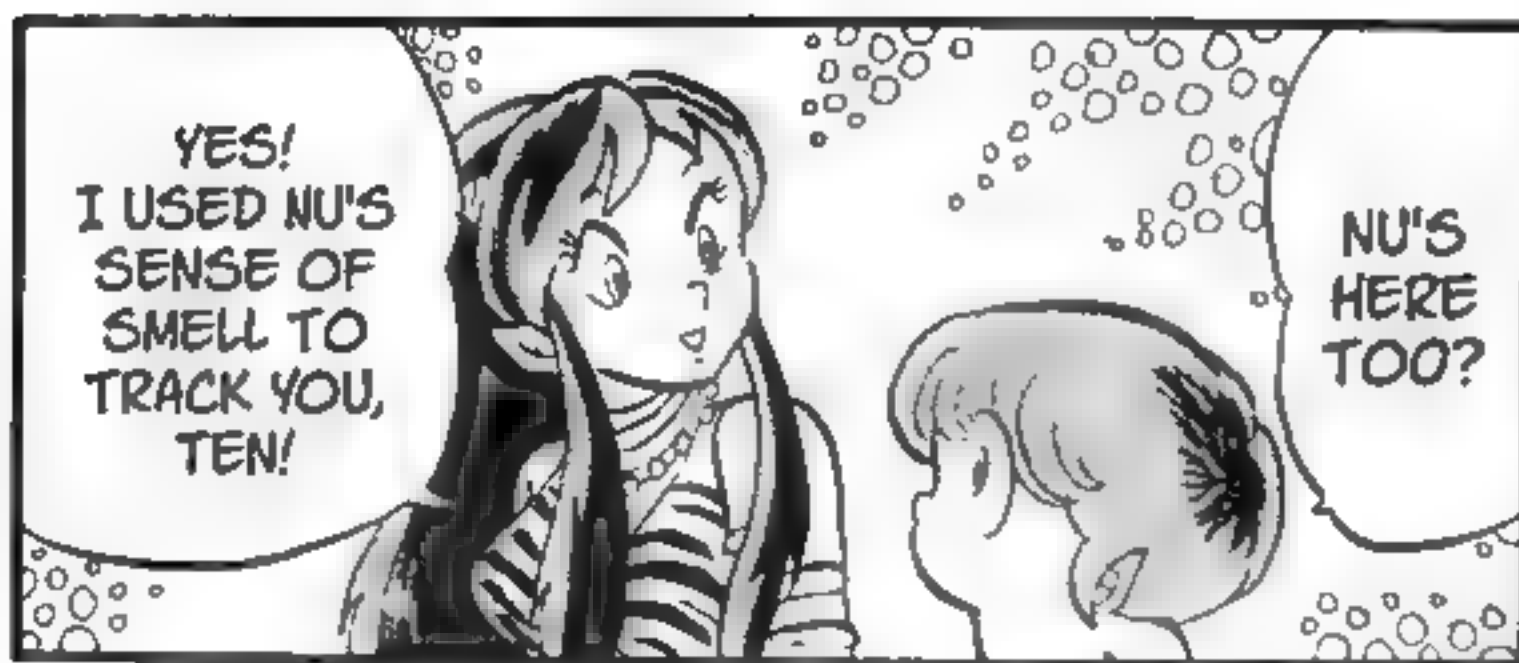
IT'S
A MON-
STER!



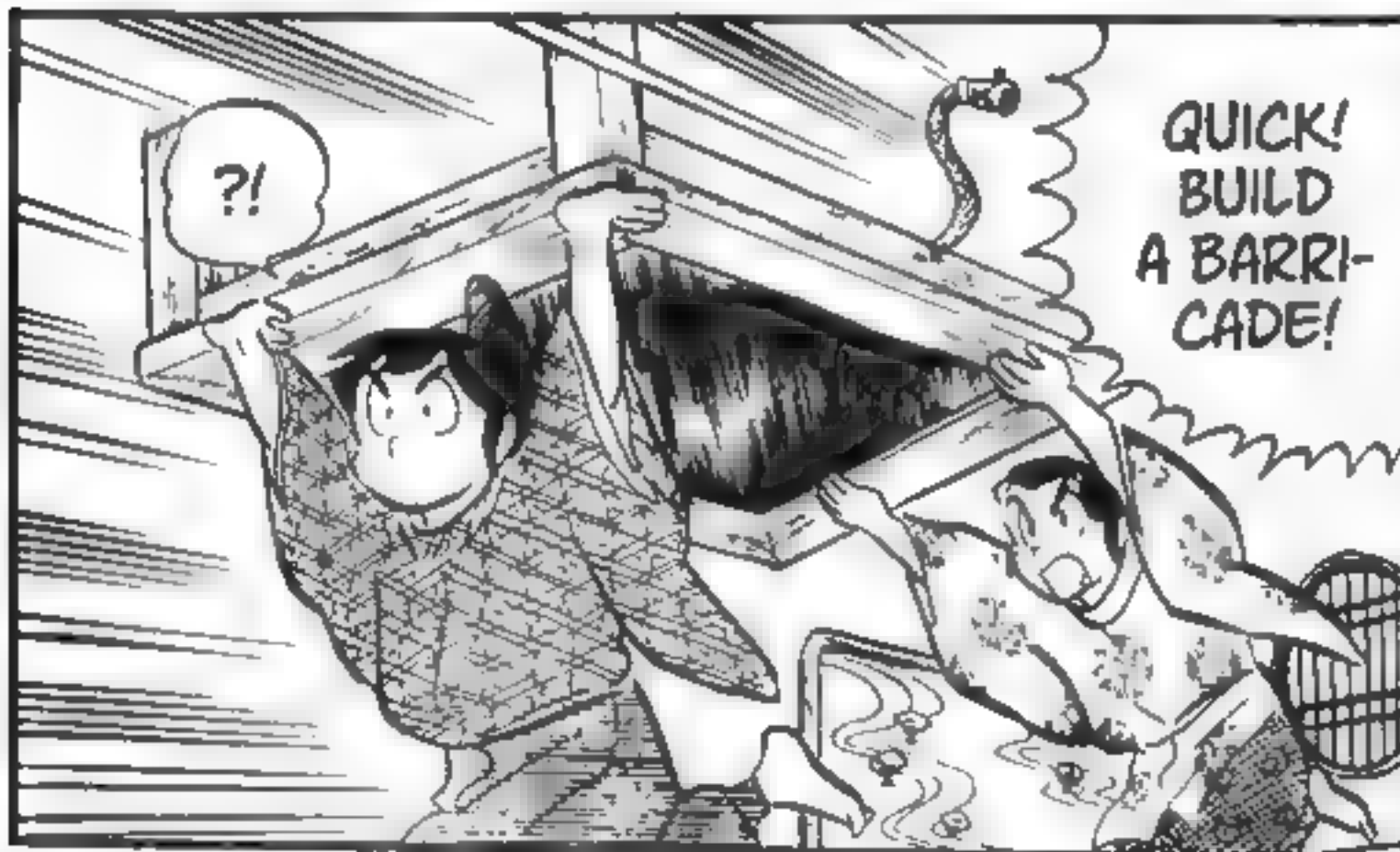














QUIET!

W-WHY?

THAT'S RIGHT!
THE STAFF
ARE OUR
HOSTAGES!

ARE YOU
BEING HELD
HOSTAGE?



EASY
FOR YOU
TO SAY!

I KNOW!
YOU BE THE
OGRE!



THAT'LL
MAKE US
THE BAD
GUYS!

BUT WE'LL
LOSE FACE IF
WE DON'T
SOLVE THIS
OGRE PROBLEM!



WE
CAN'T
FIGHT A
GIRL!

WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS?



YOU TWO
ESCAPE
THROUGH
THE BACK!

O-KAY!

BYE-BYE!

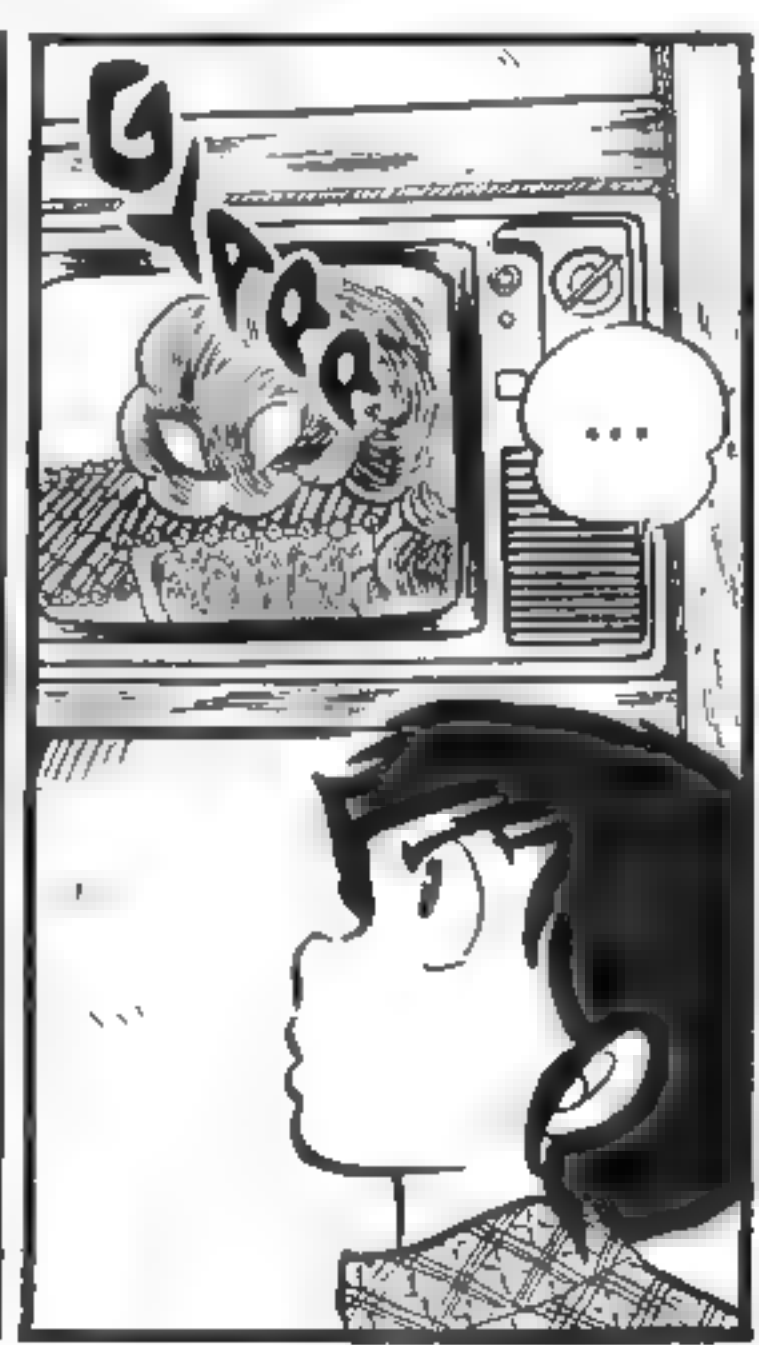


BUT
NU'S A
SWEET-
HEART!

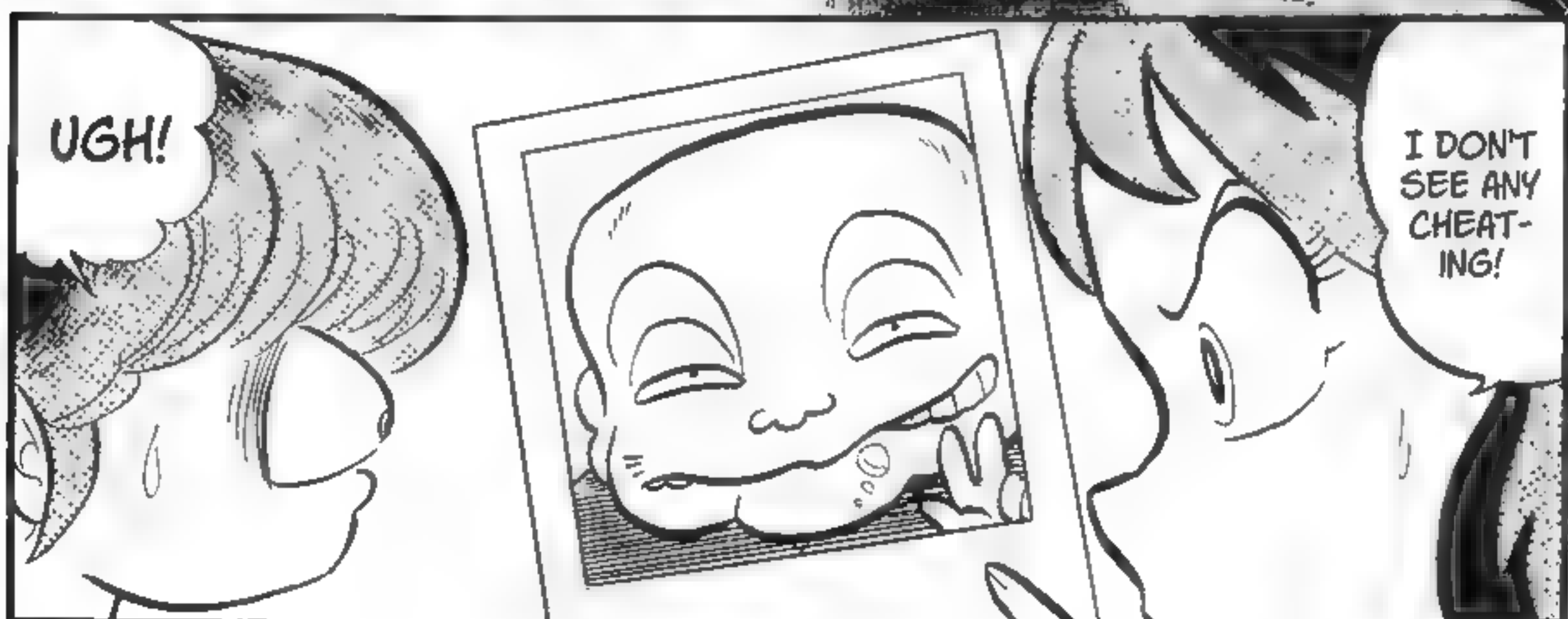
IT'LL
BE A
FIXED
FIGHT!

HE'S THE
PERFECT
BAD GUY!

WHAT
ABOUT
IF WE
FIGHT
NU?



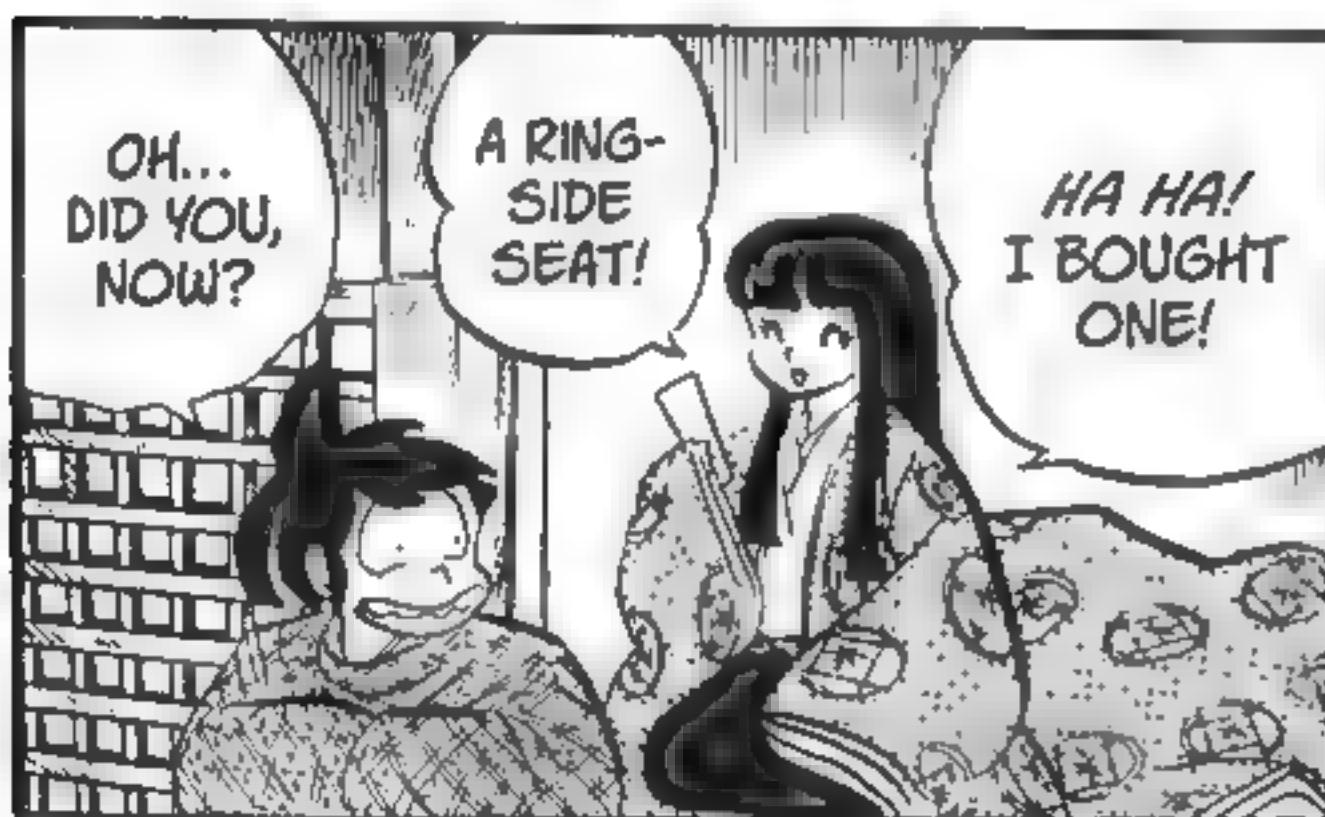
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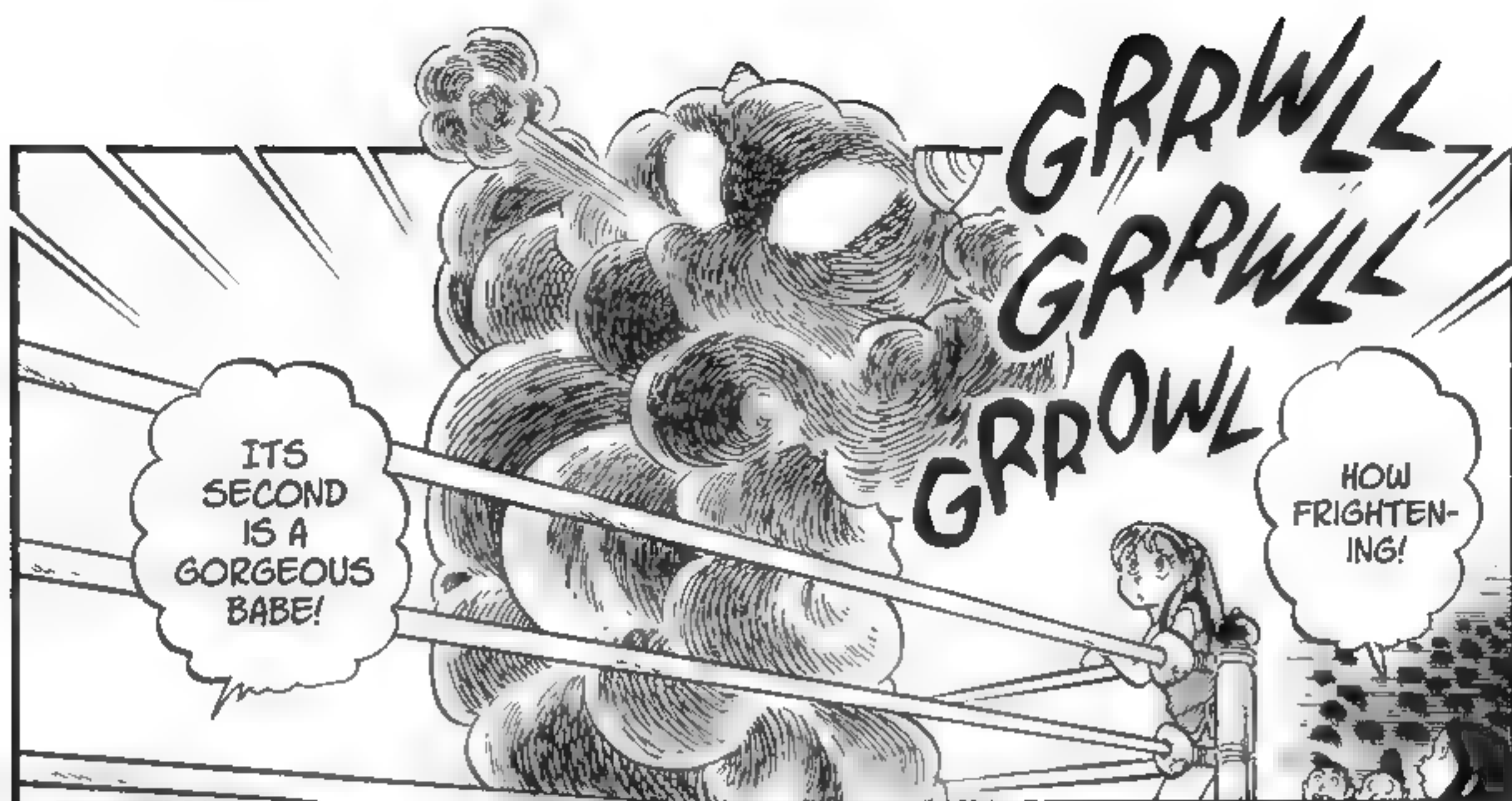




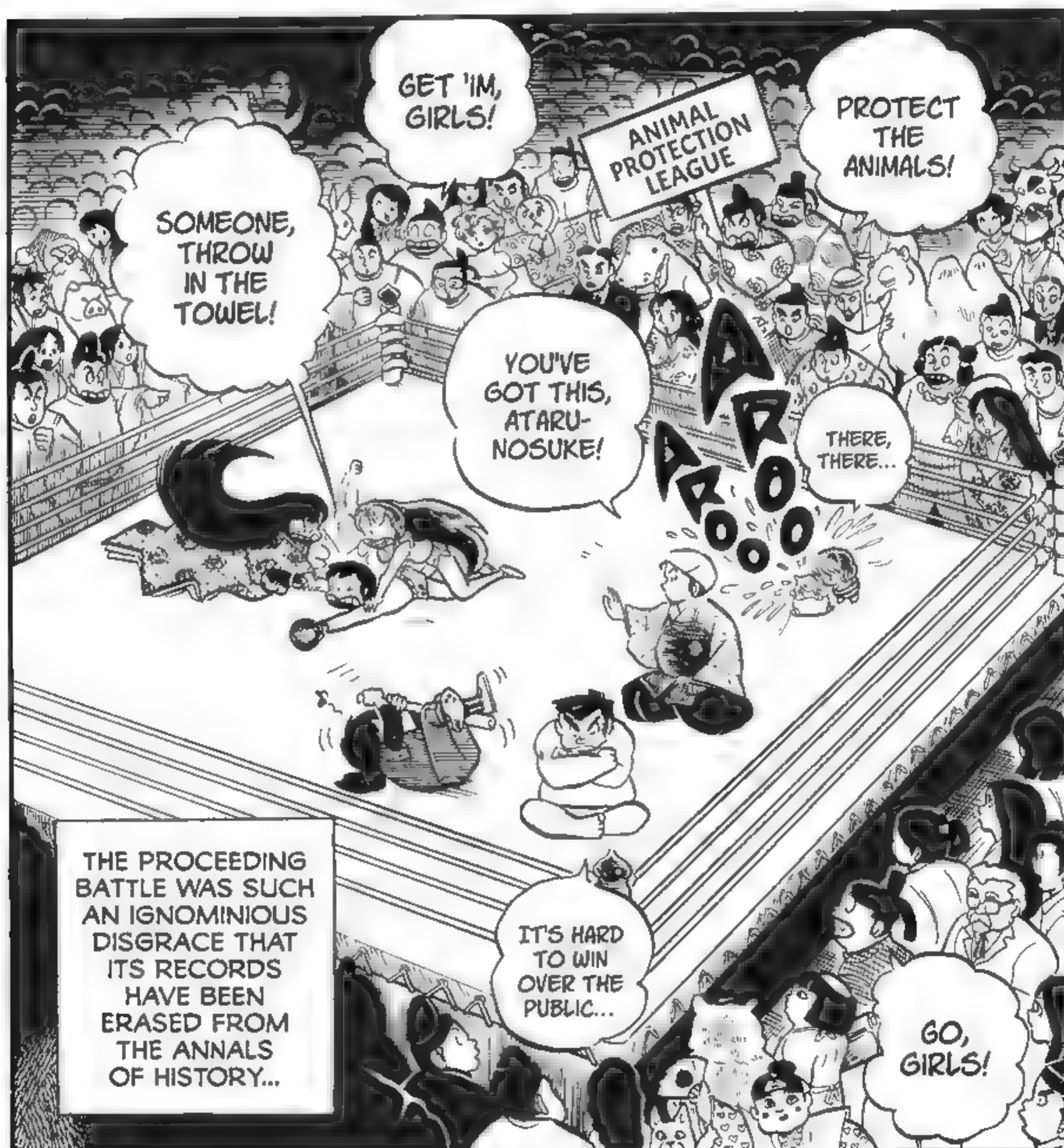
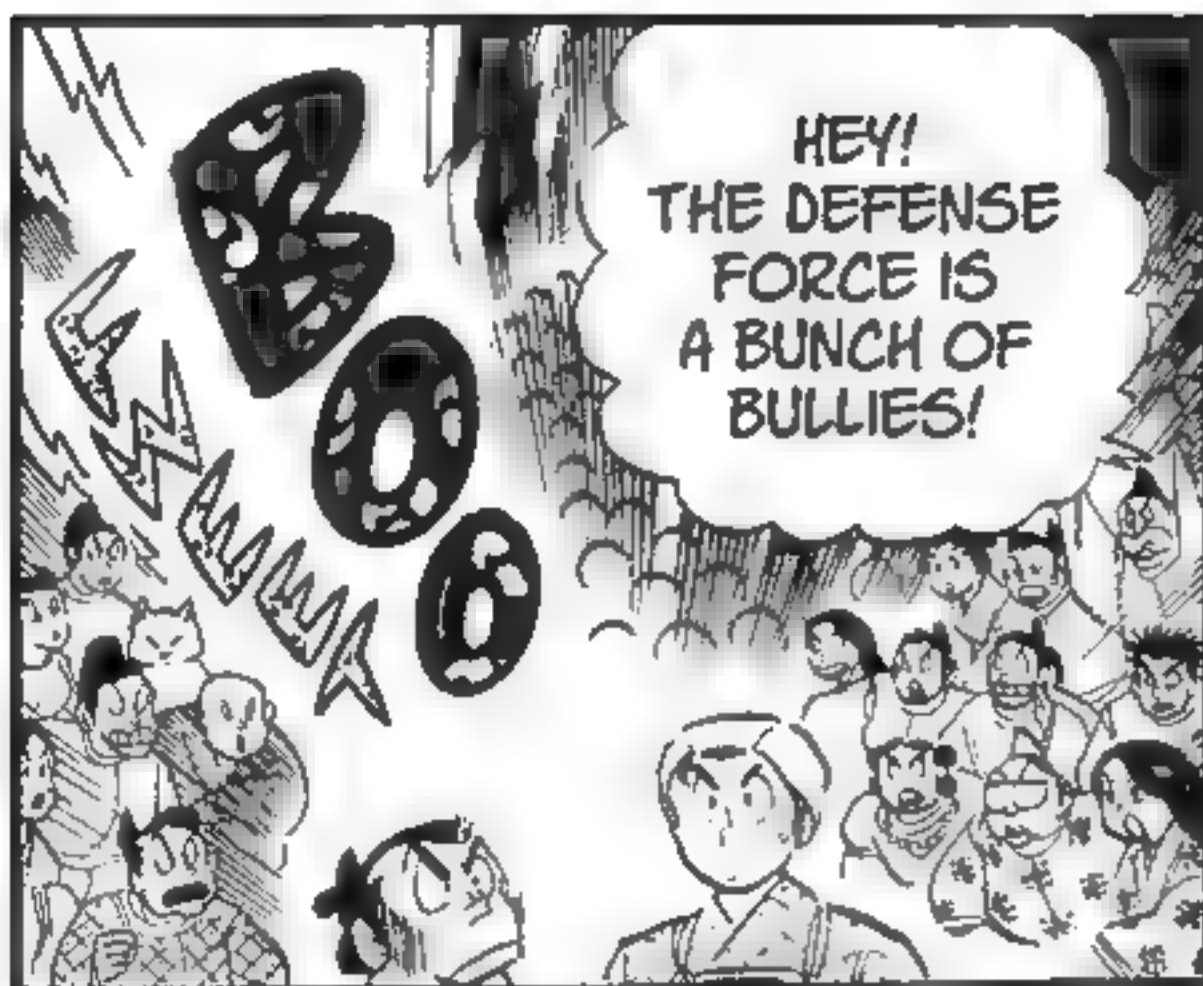
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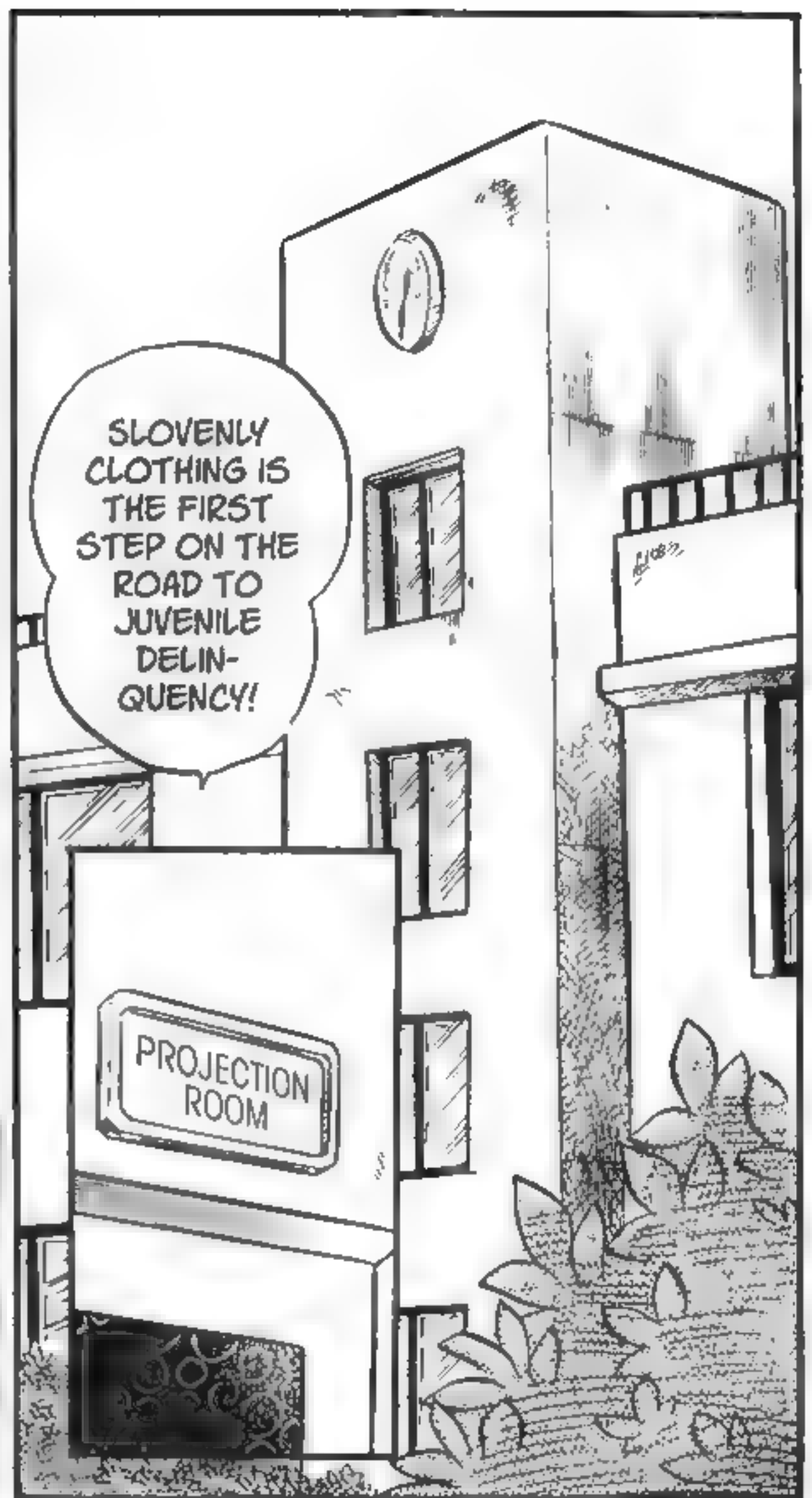


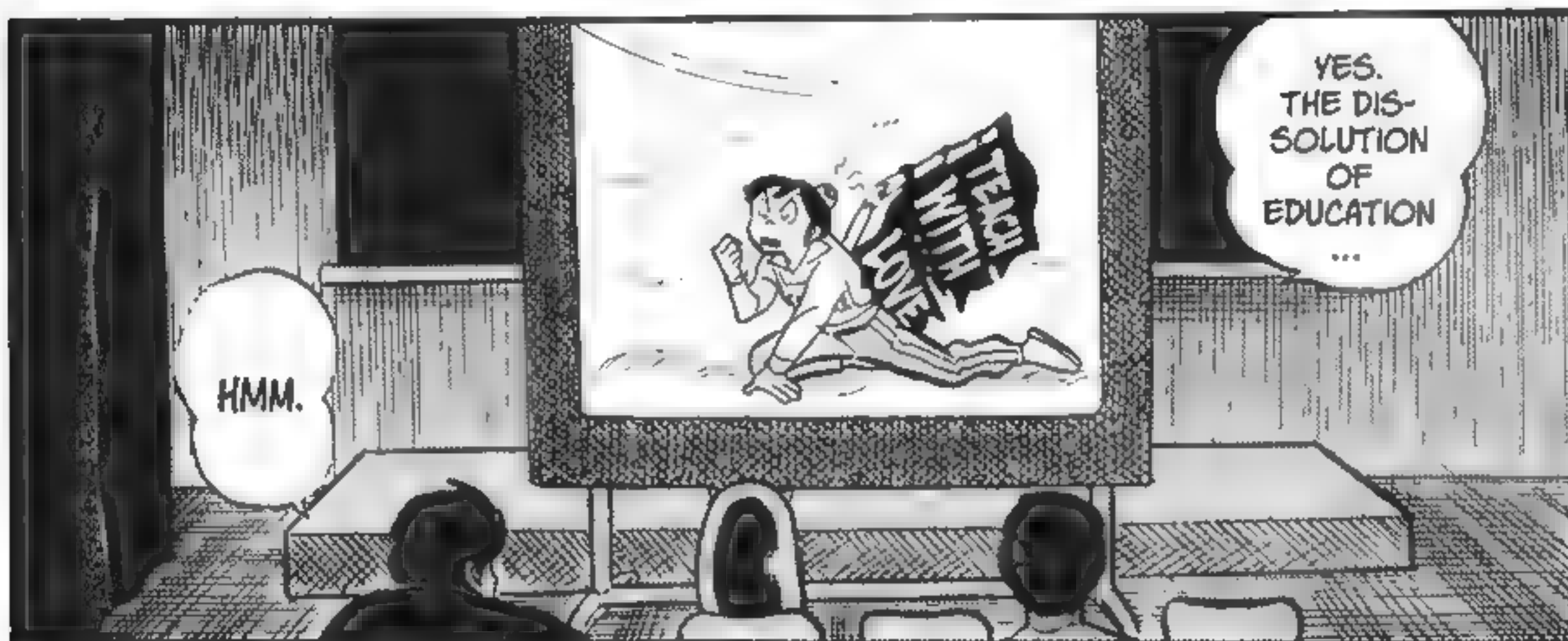
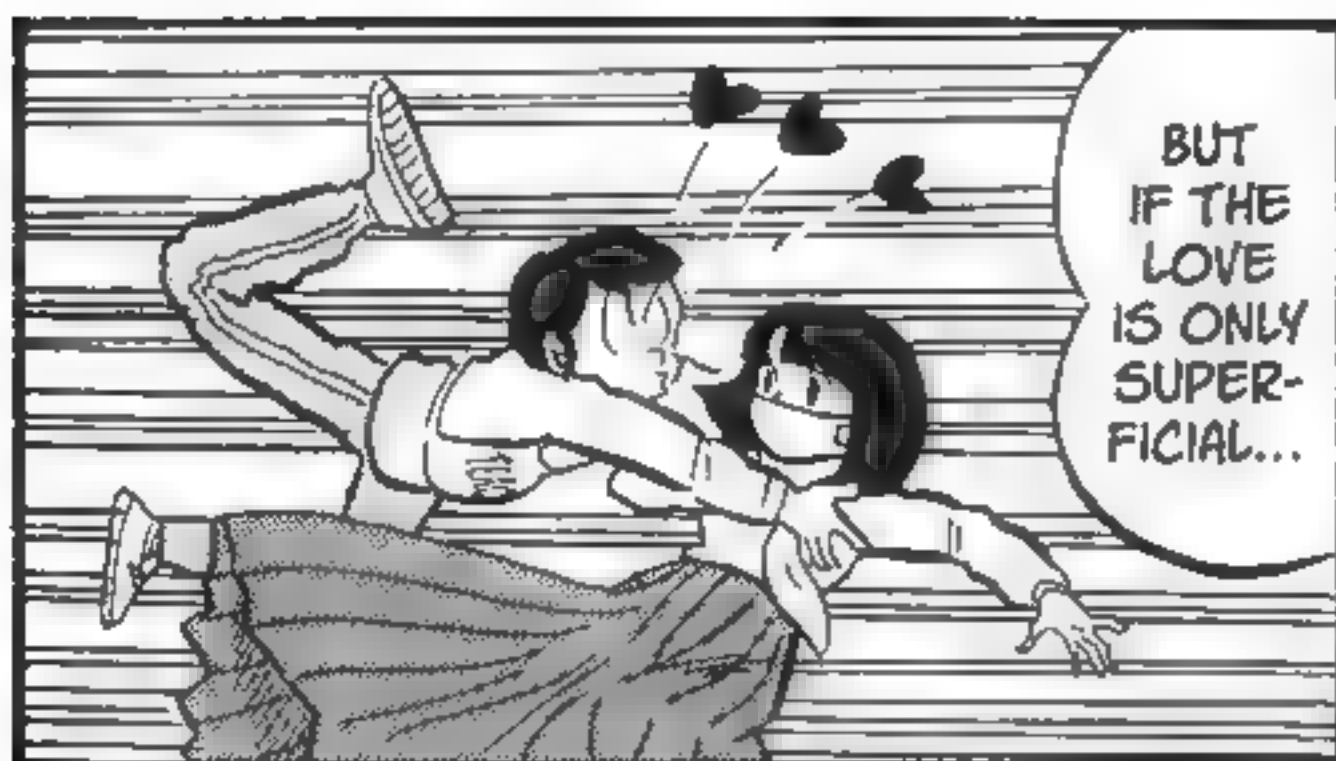




CHAPTER 20: LOVE AND SCHOOL VIOLENCE

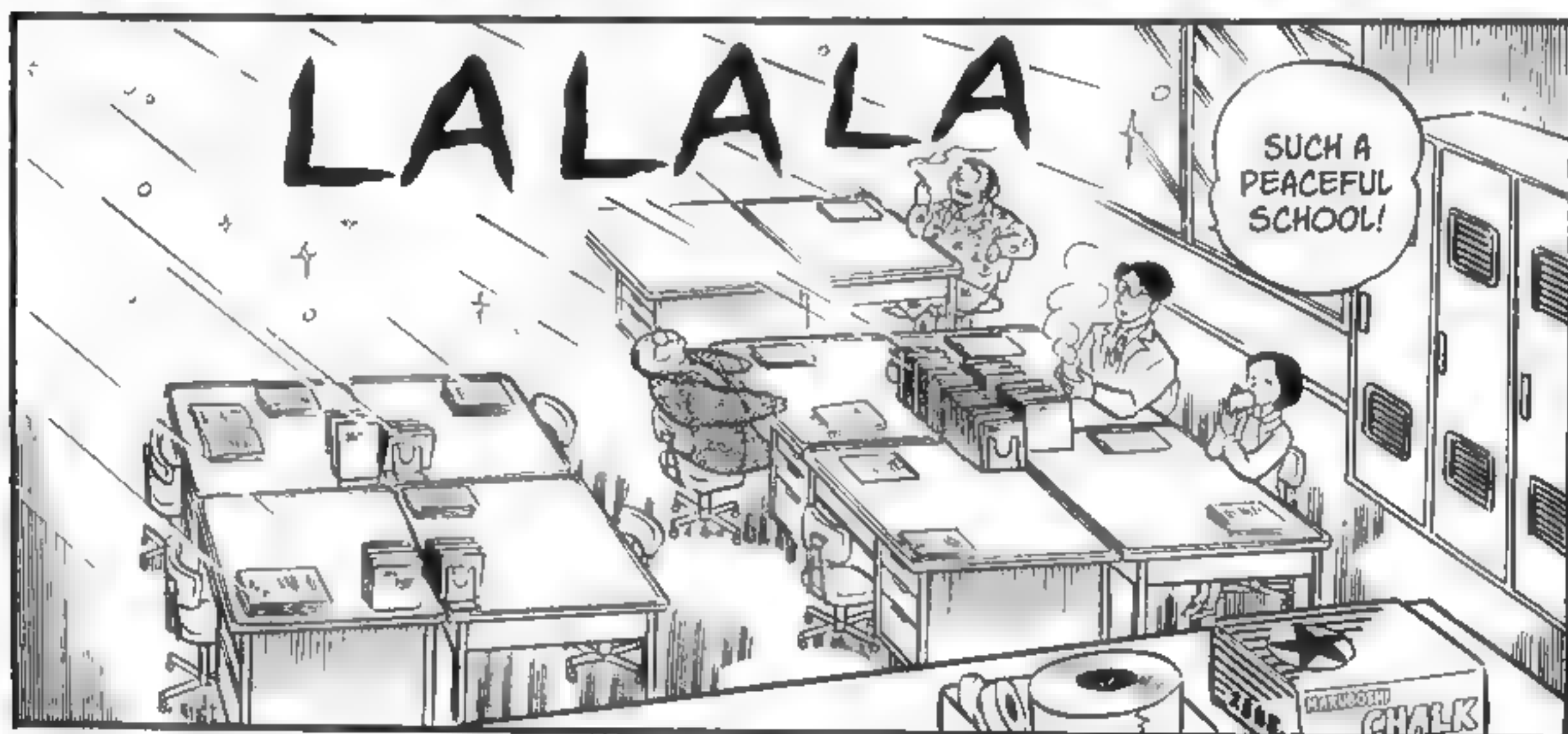
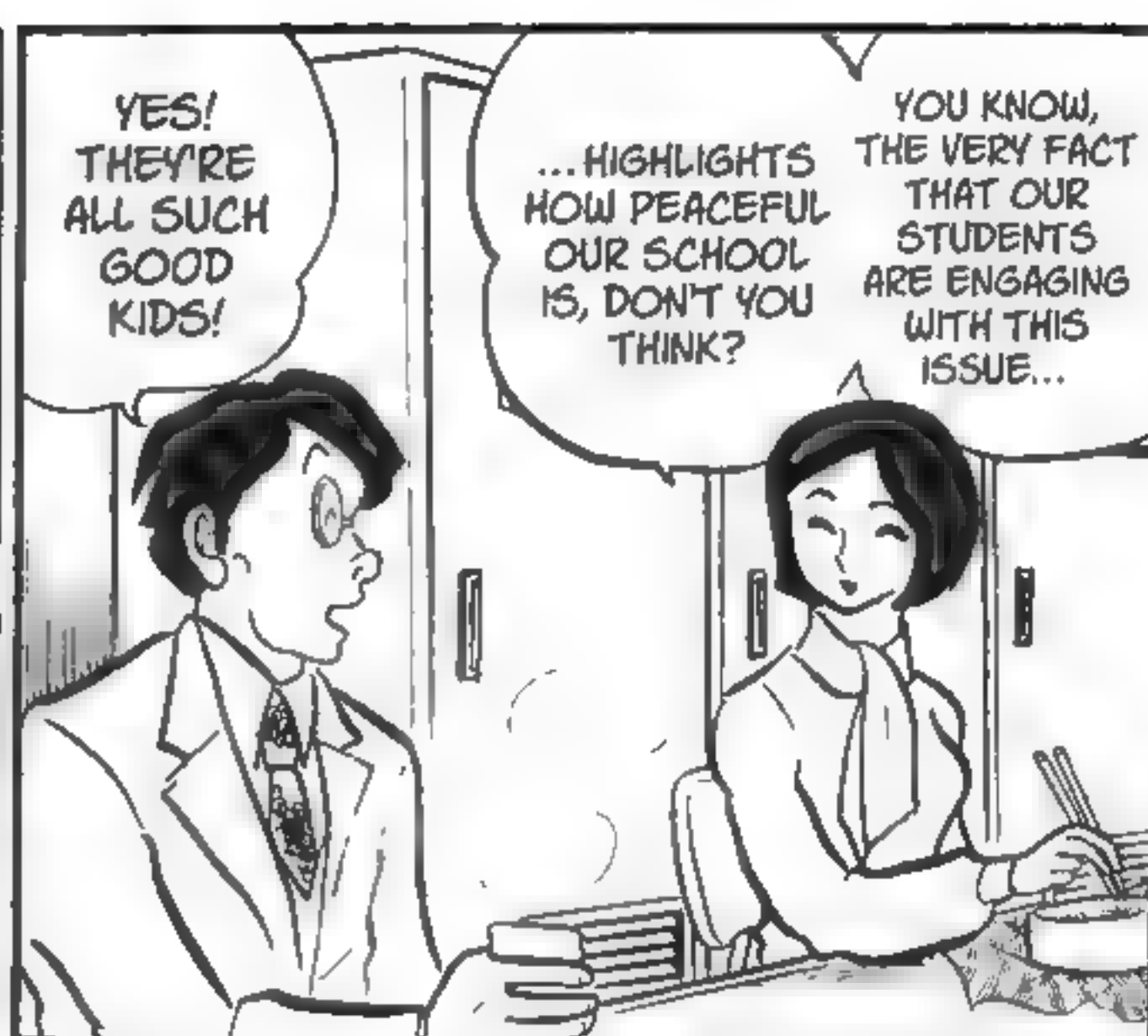








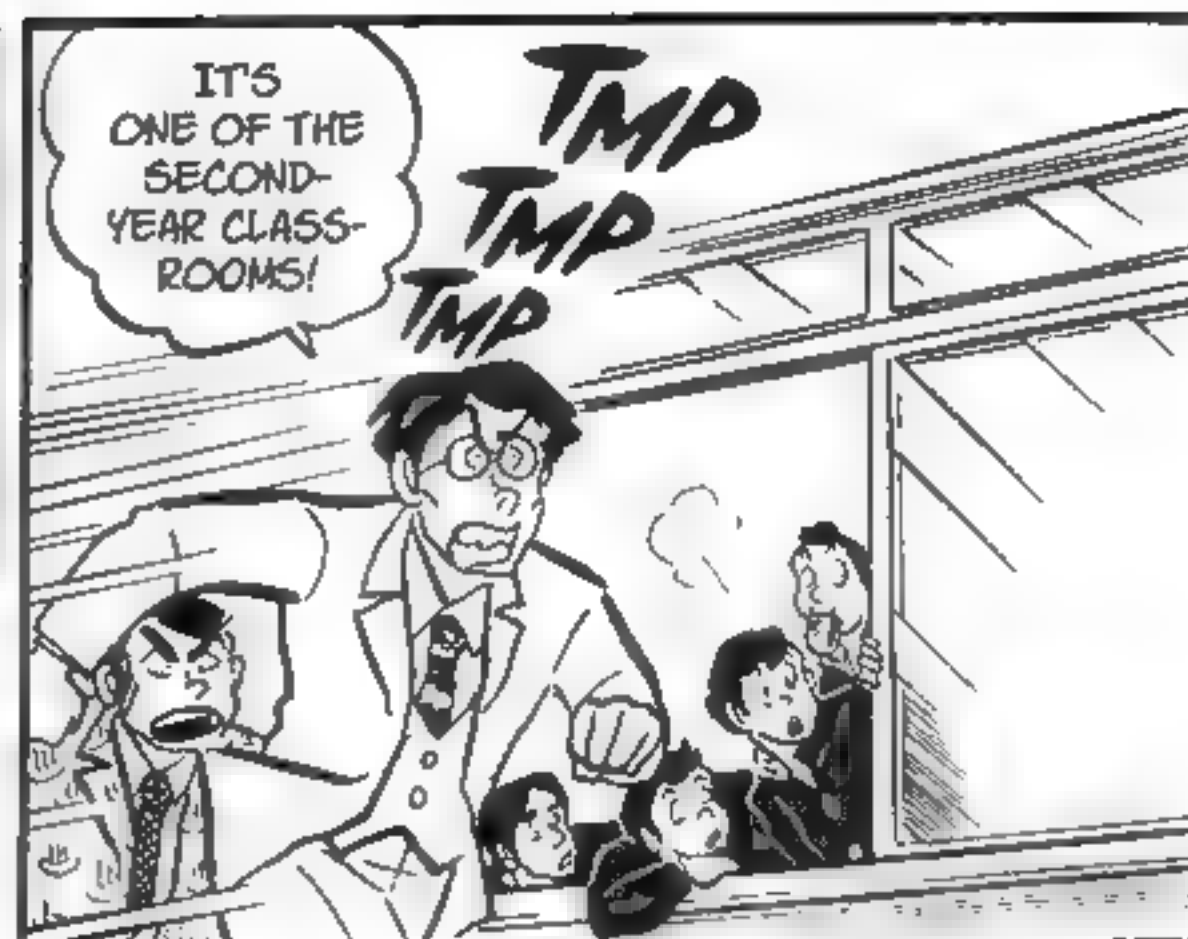




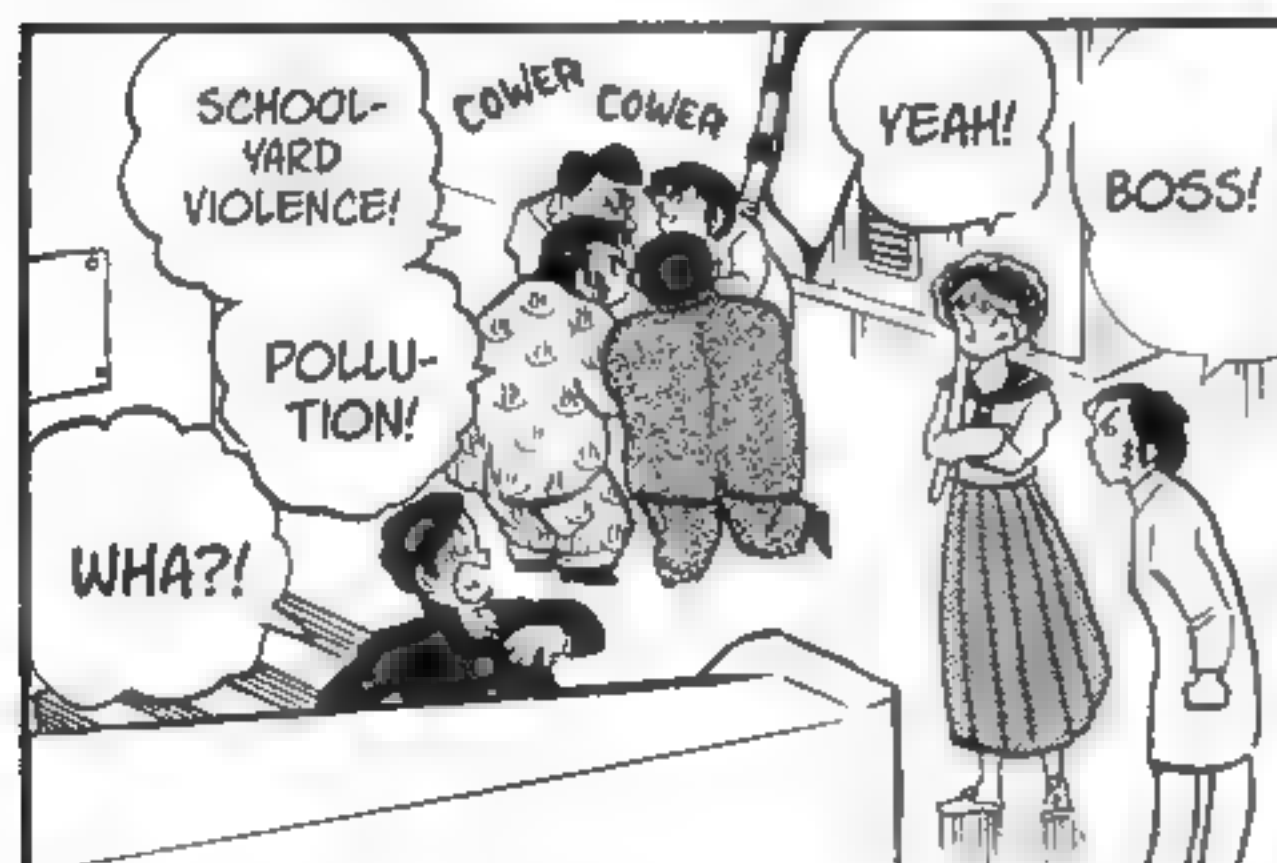
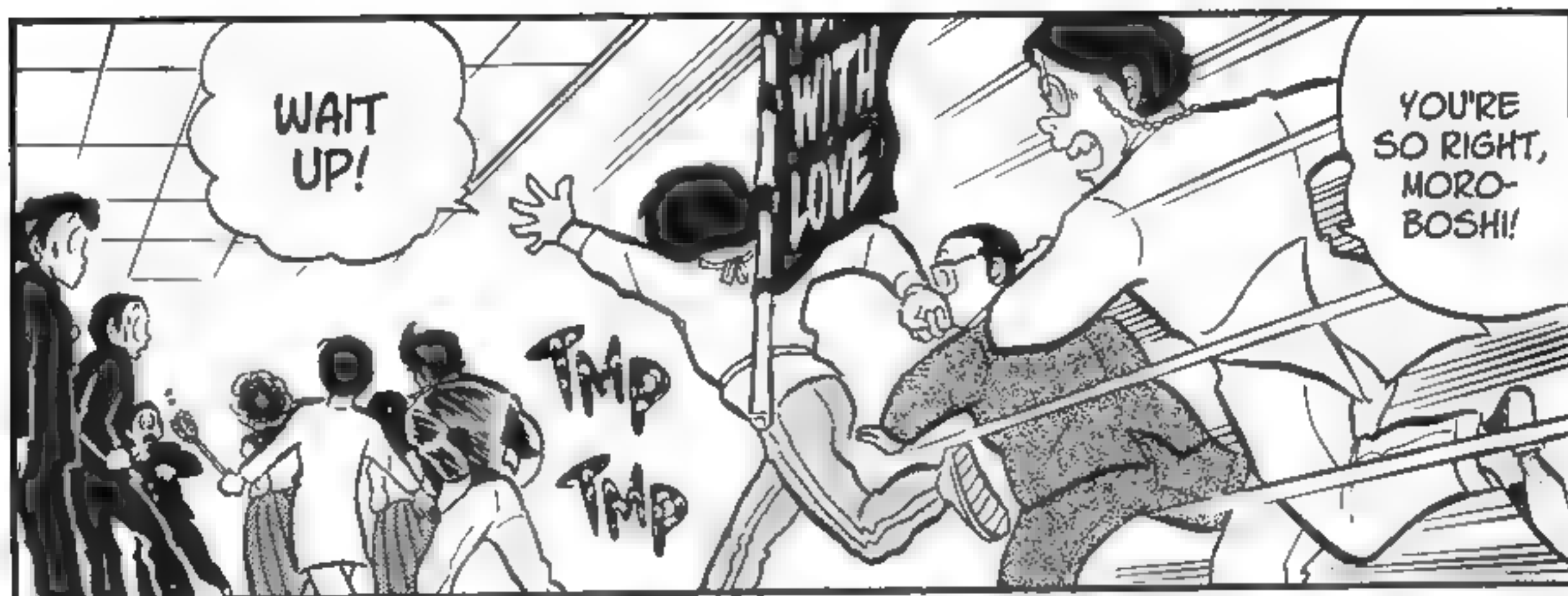




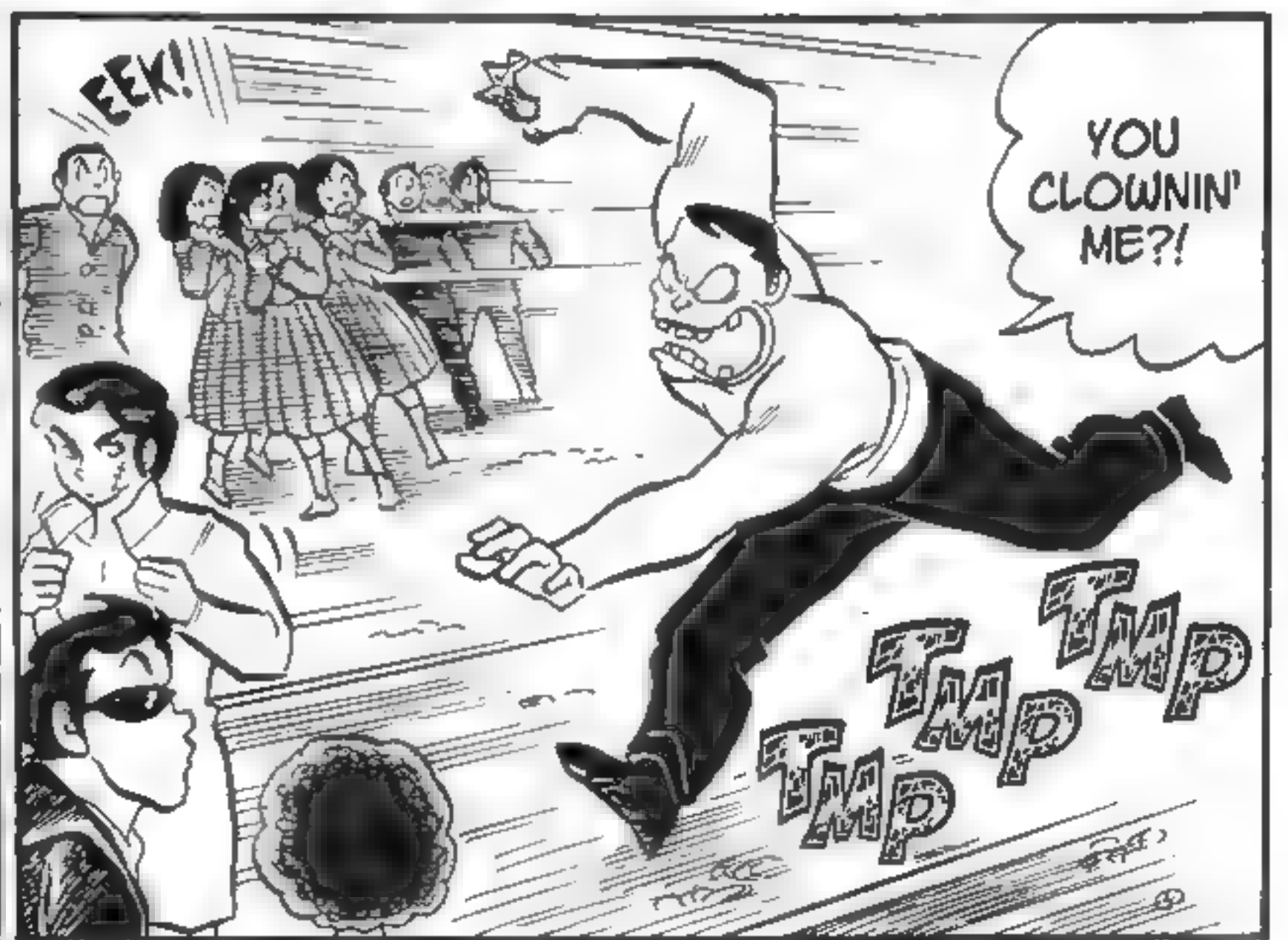
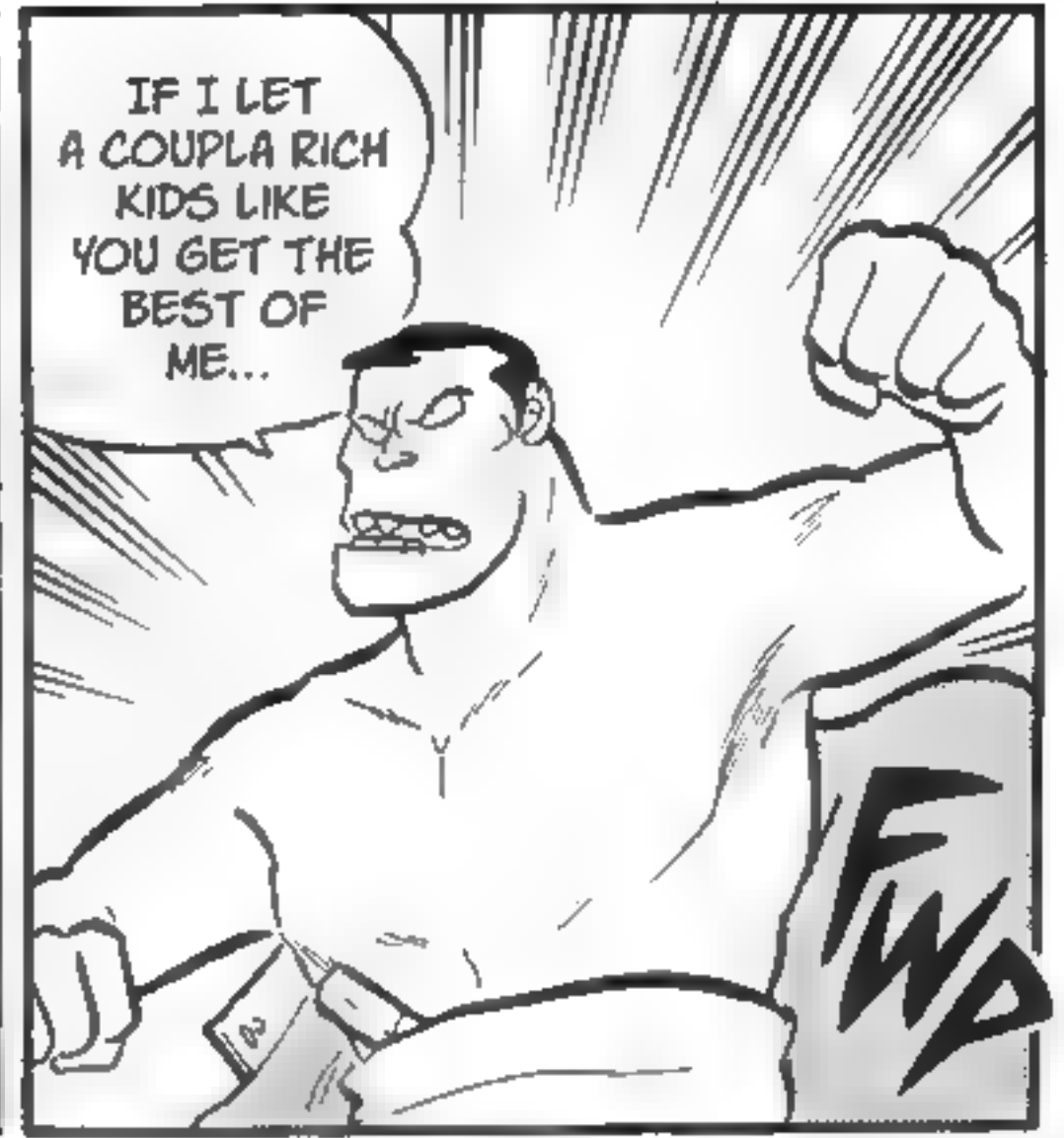


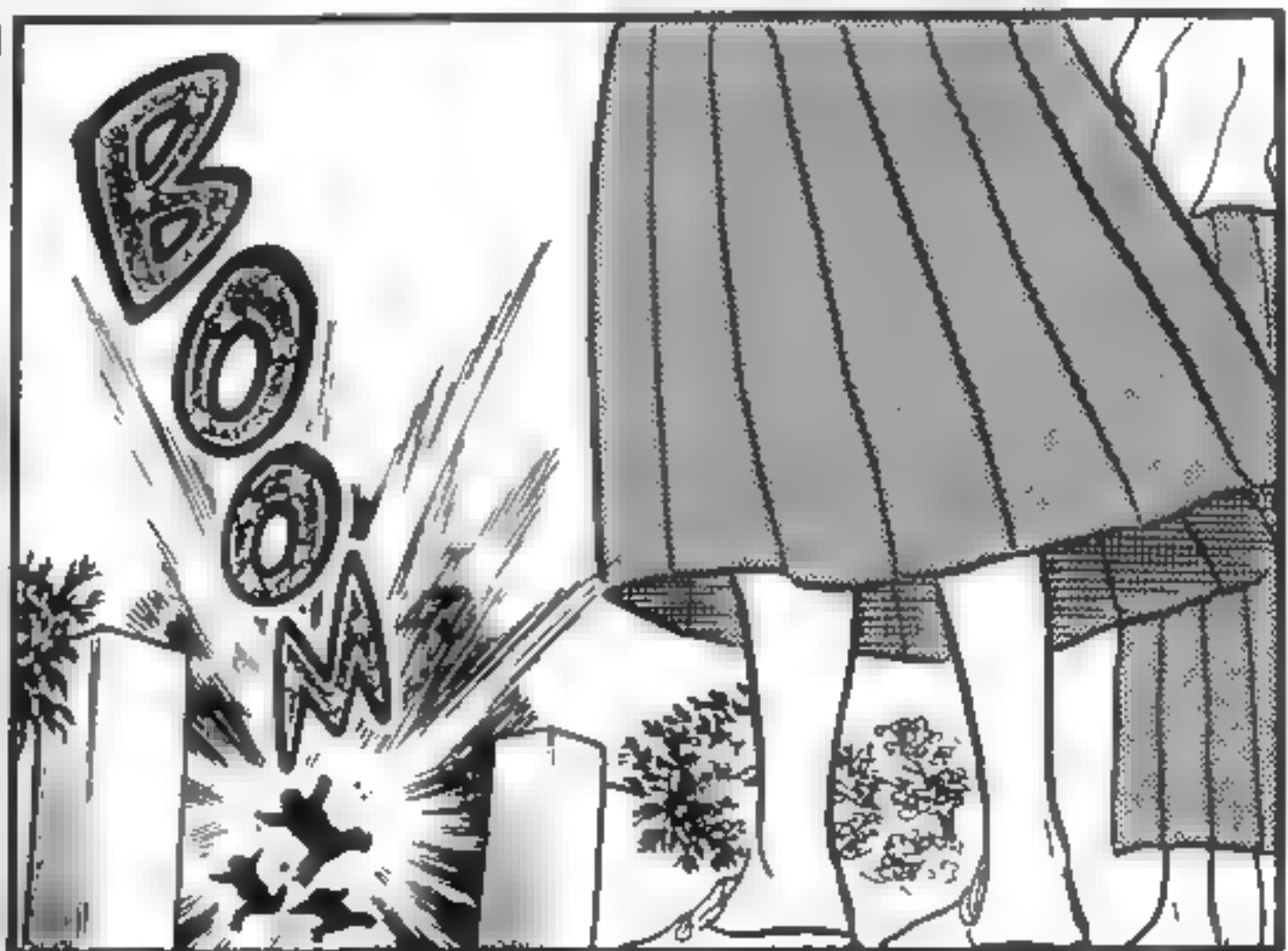
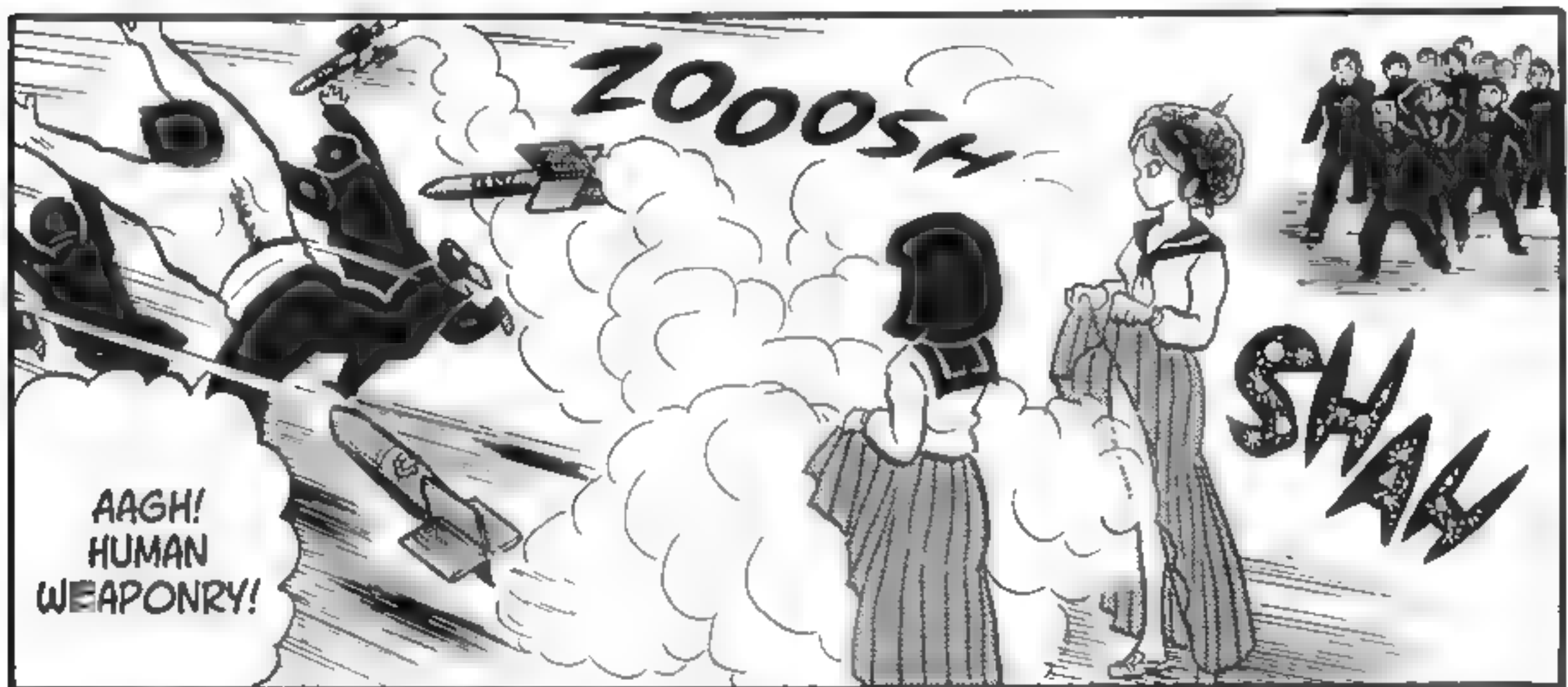
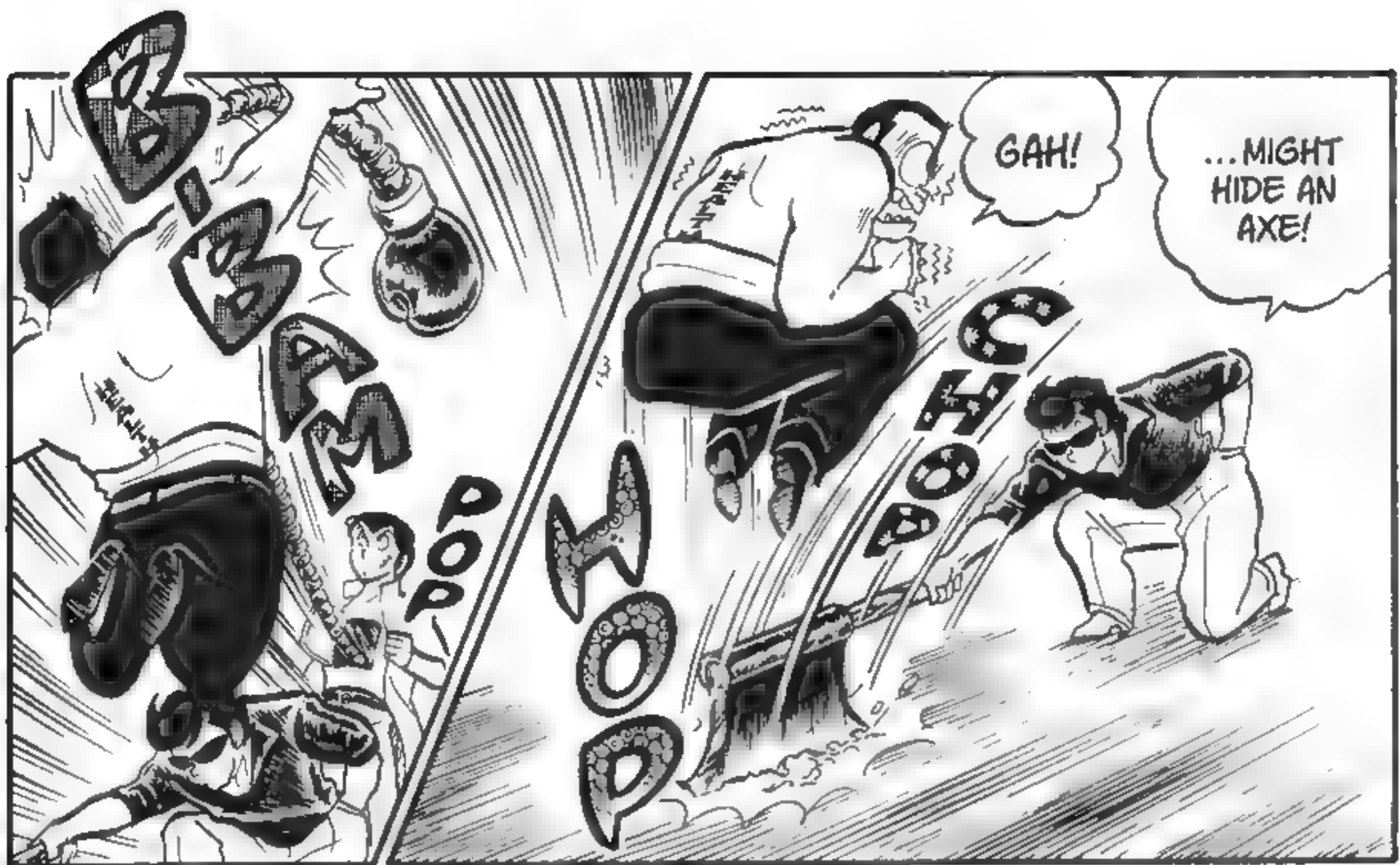


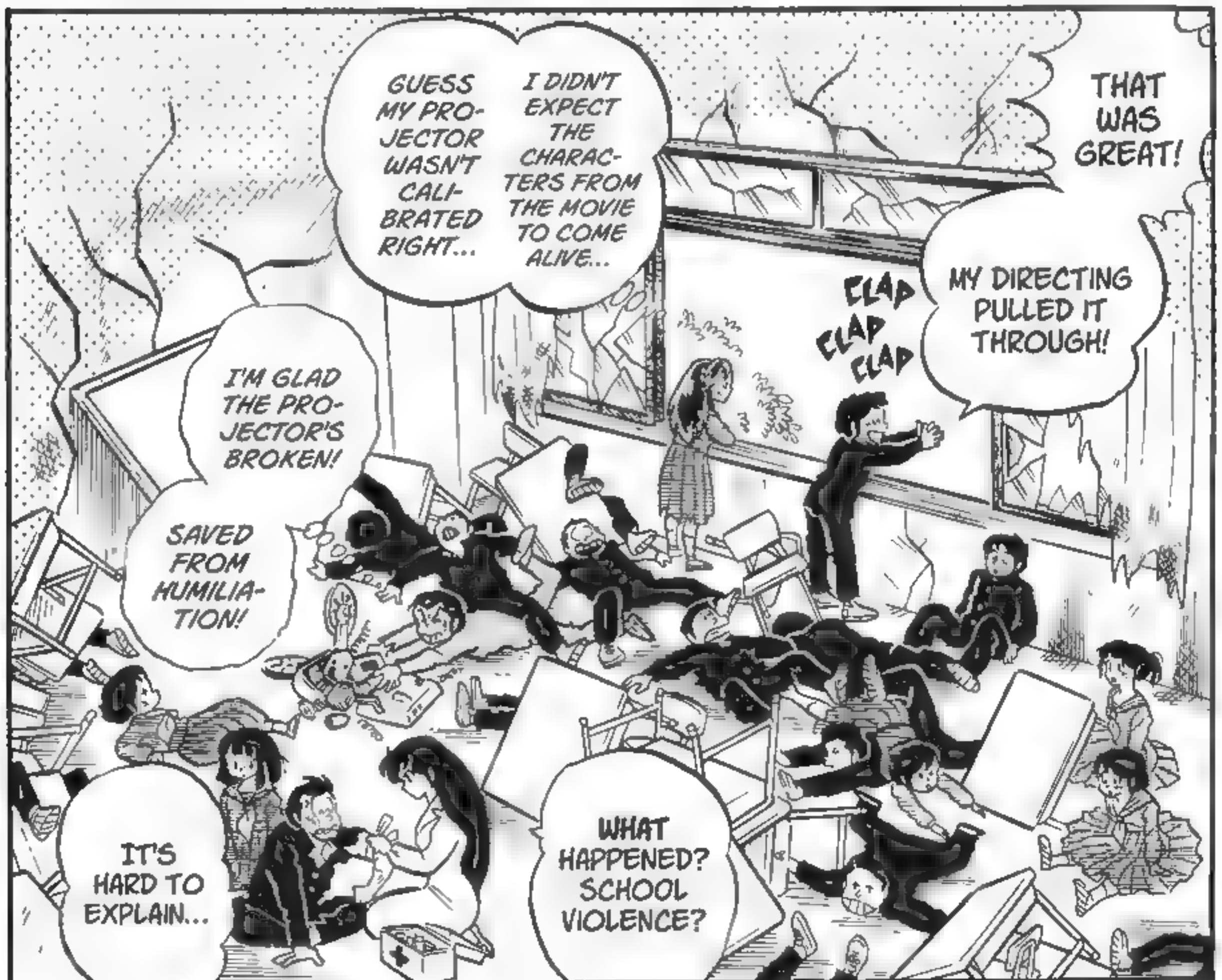






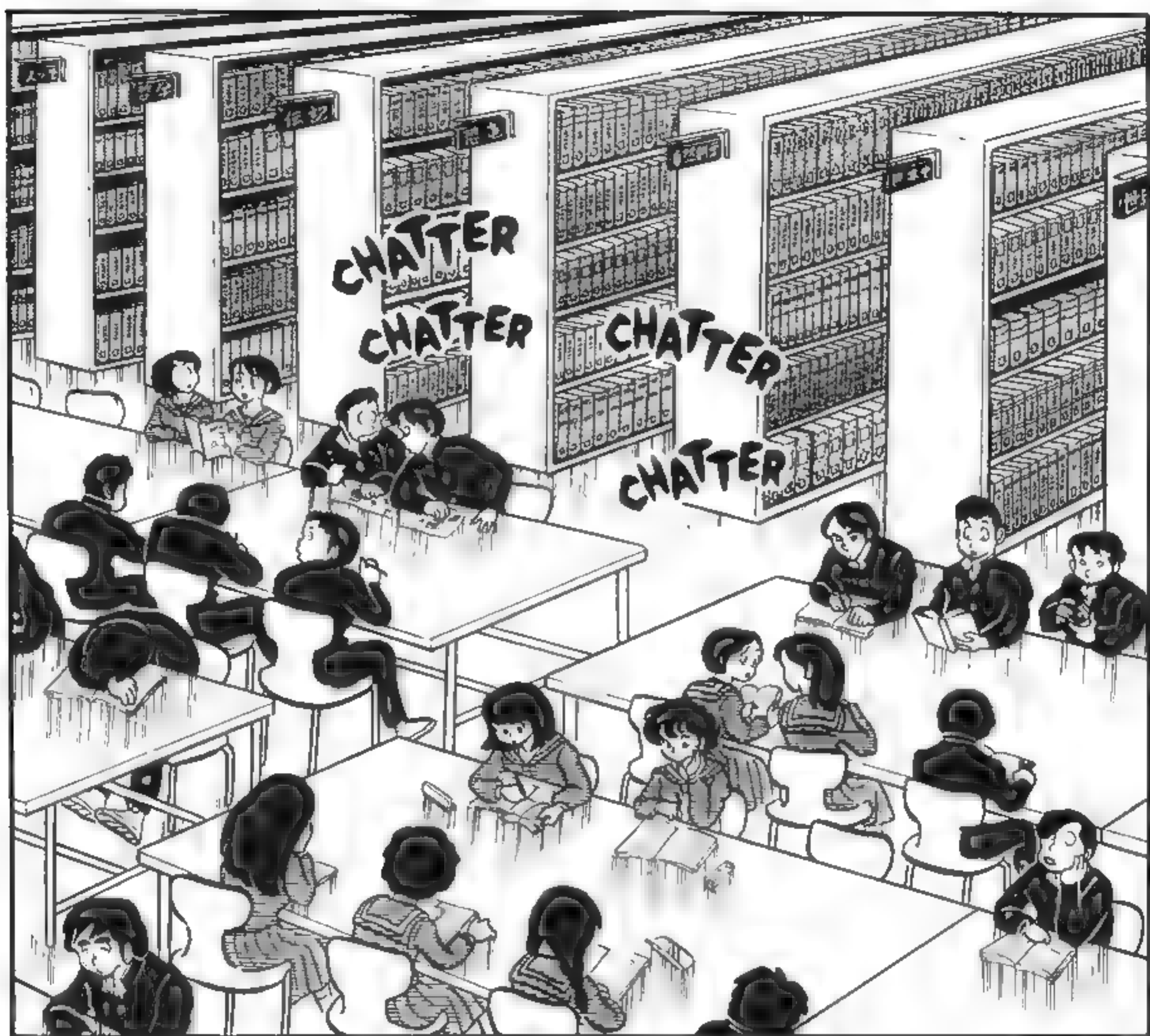






CHAPTER 21: OH, LIBRARY!



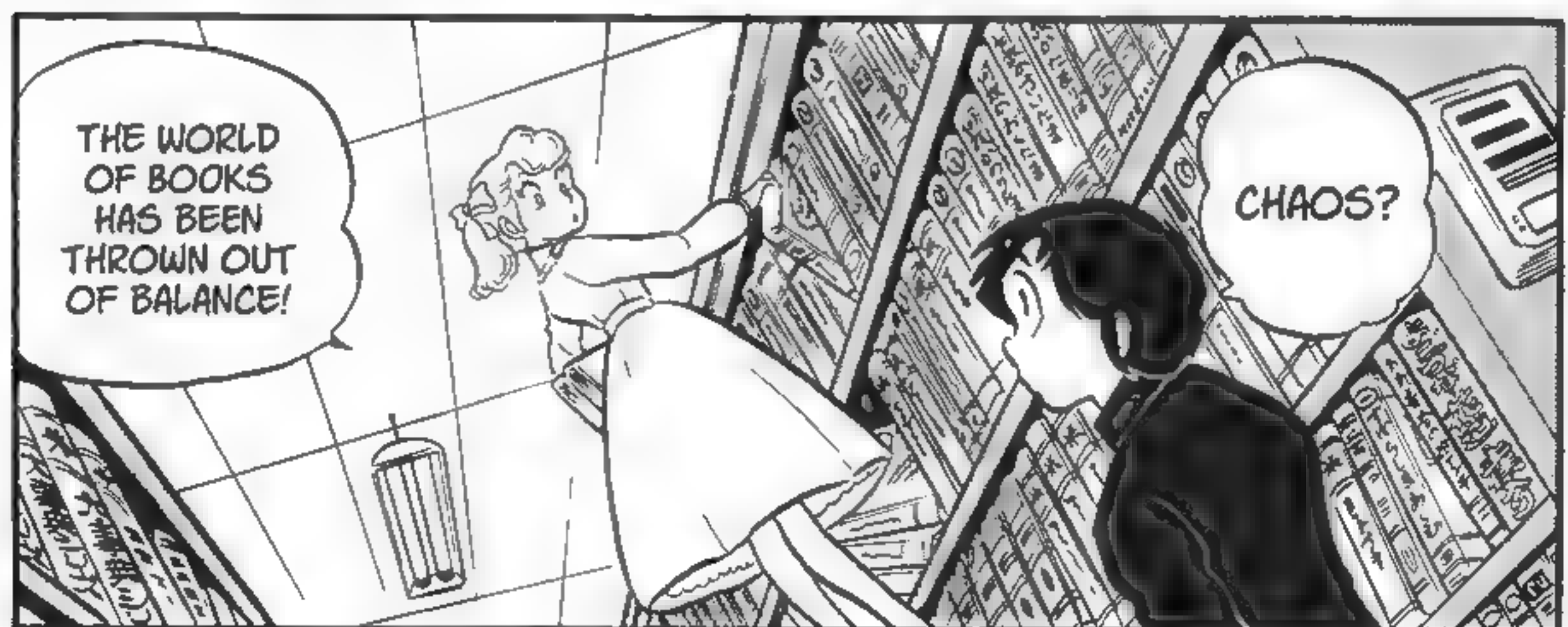
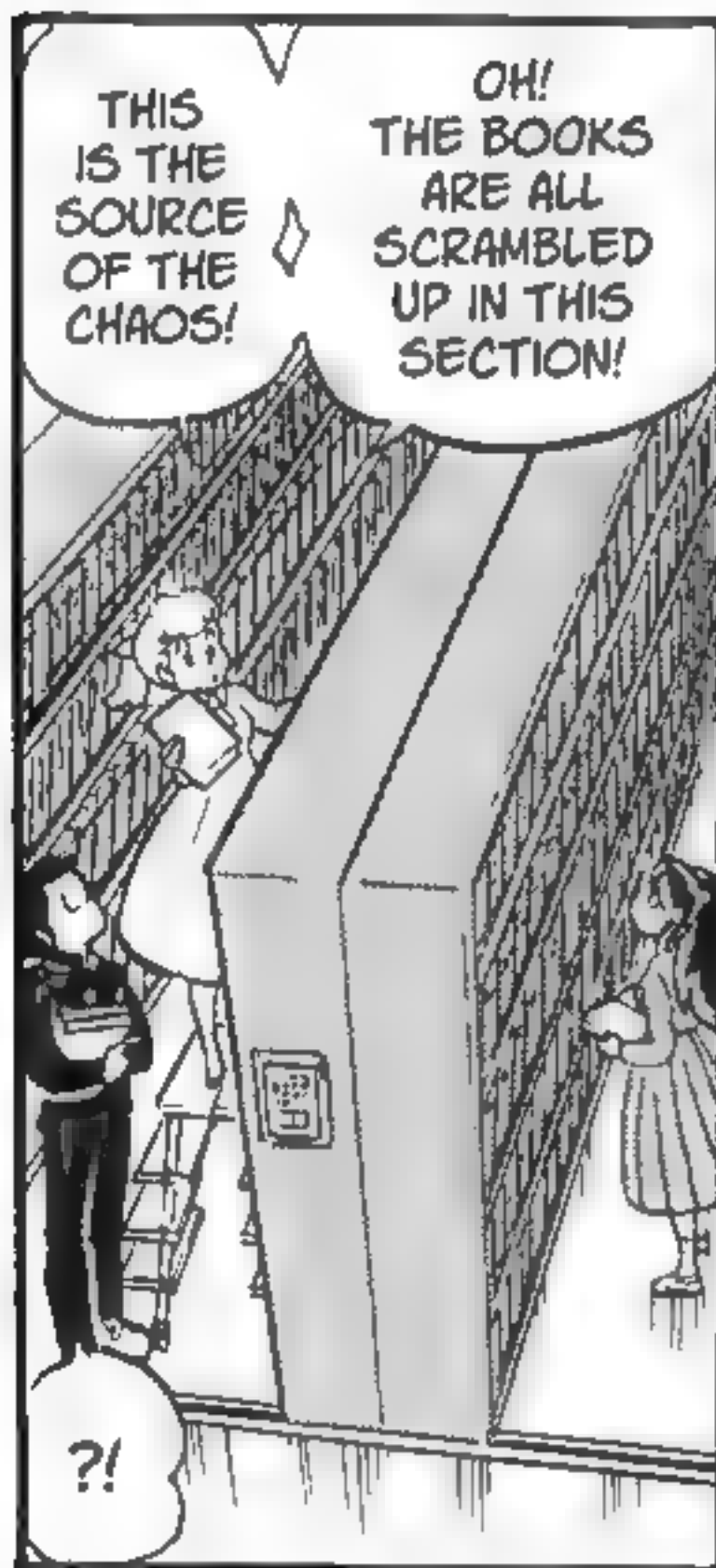


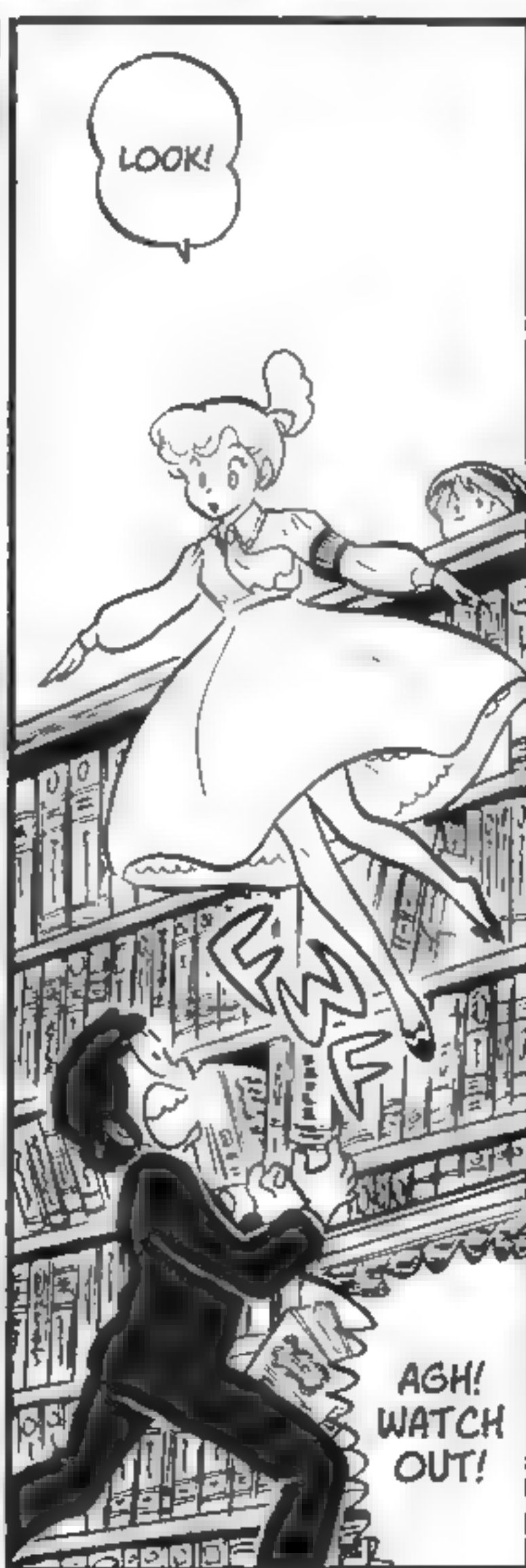
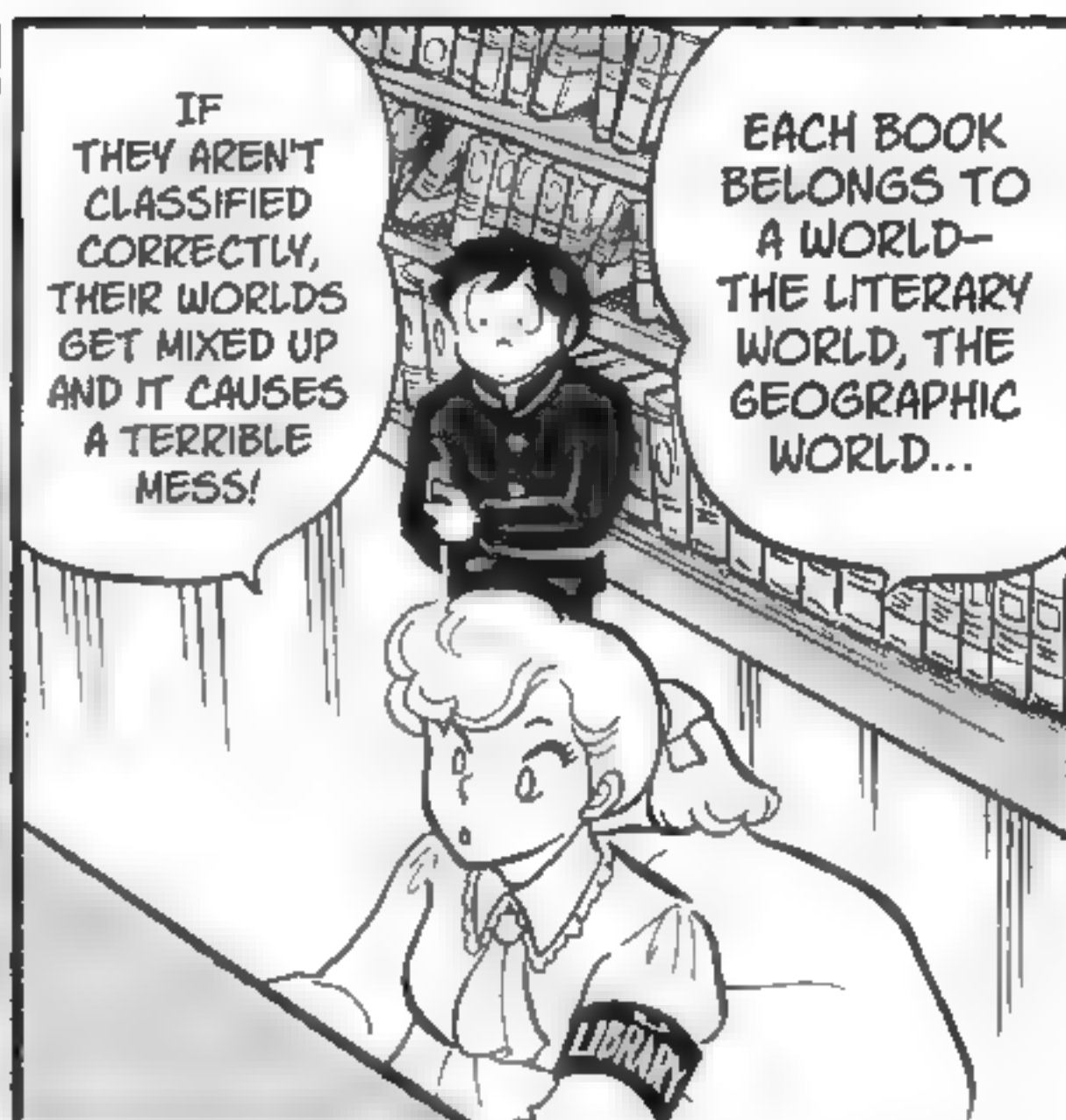


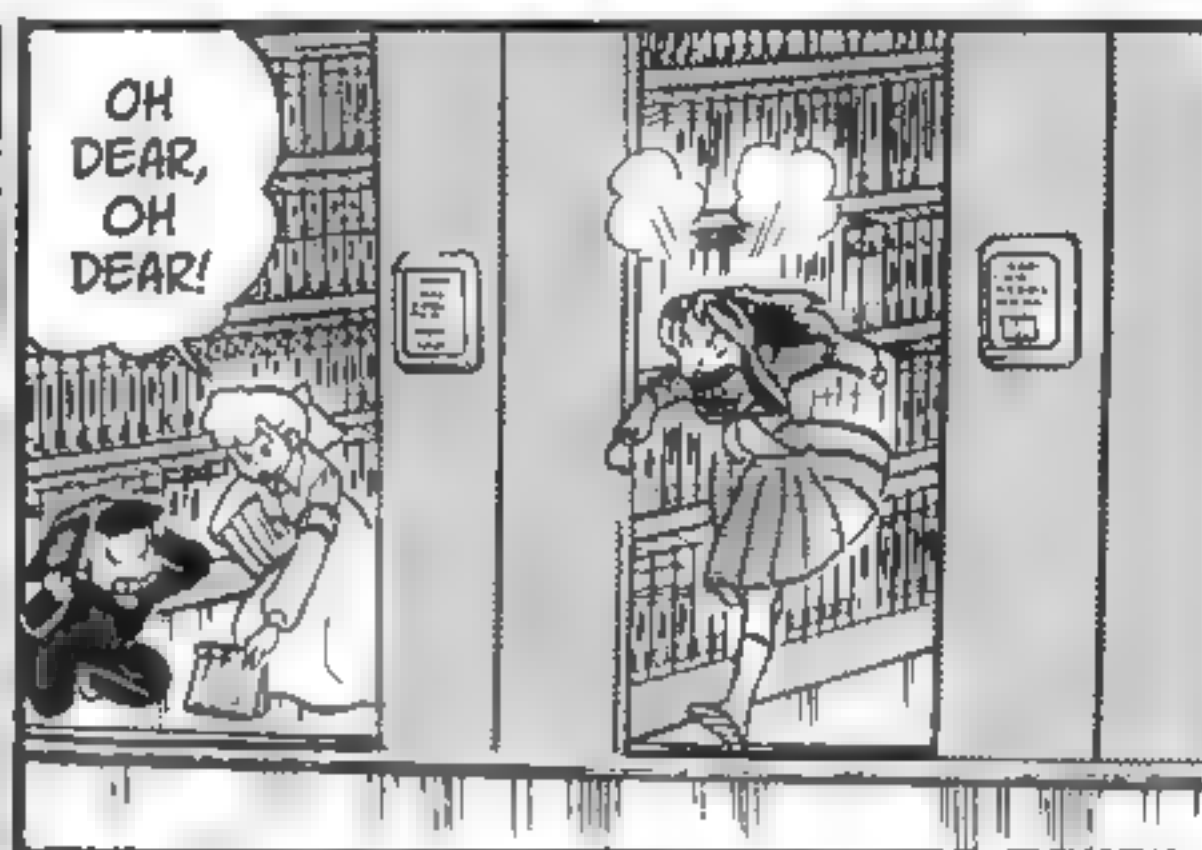
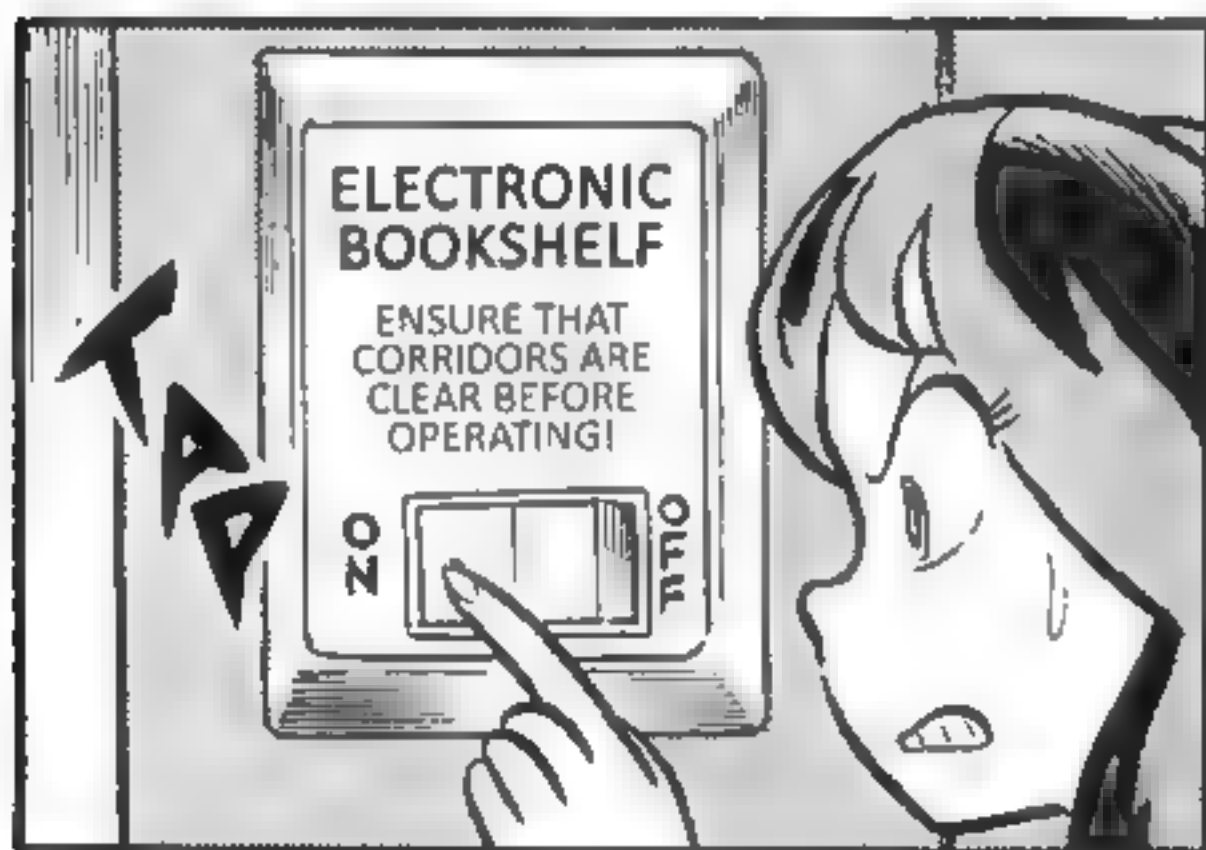


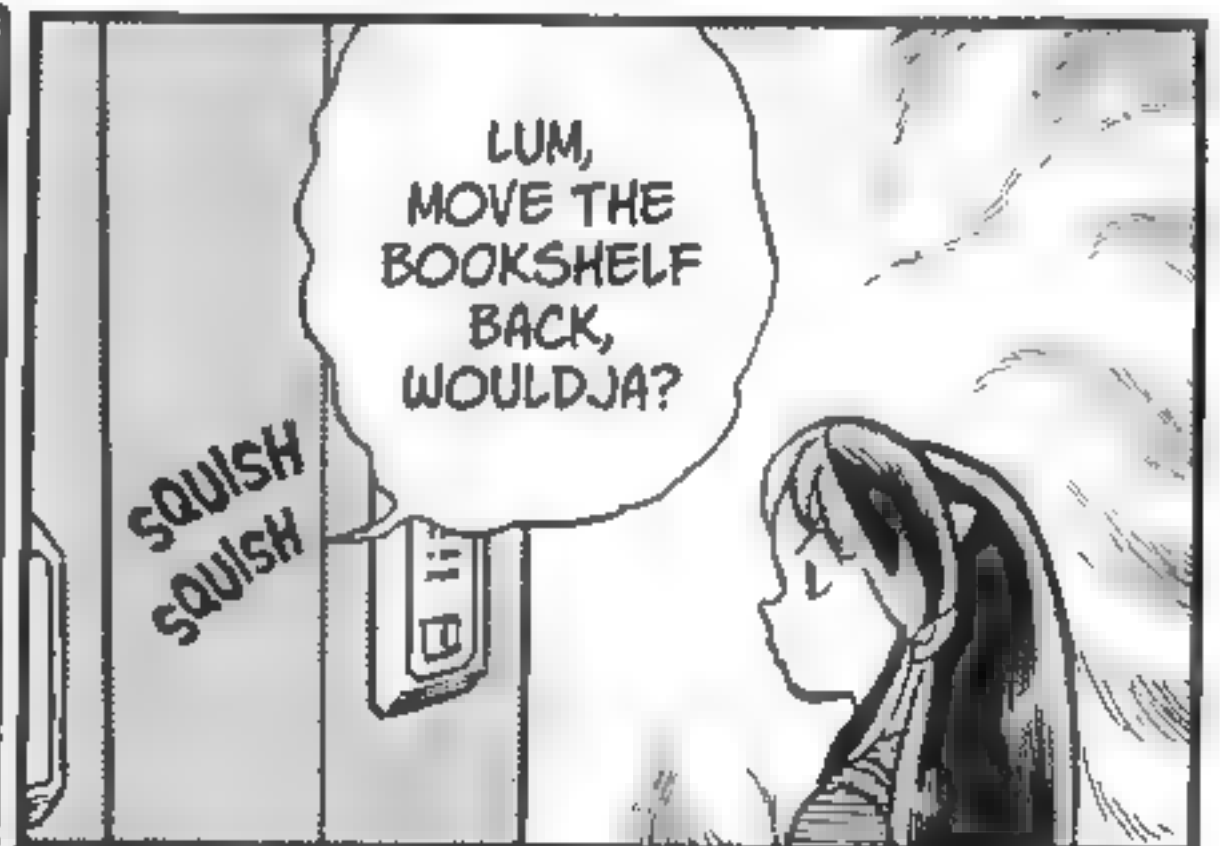








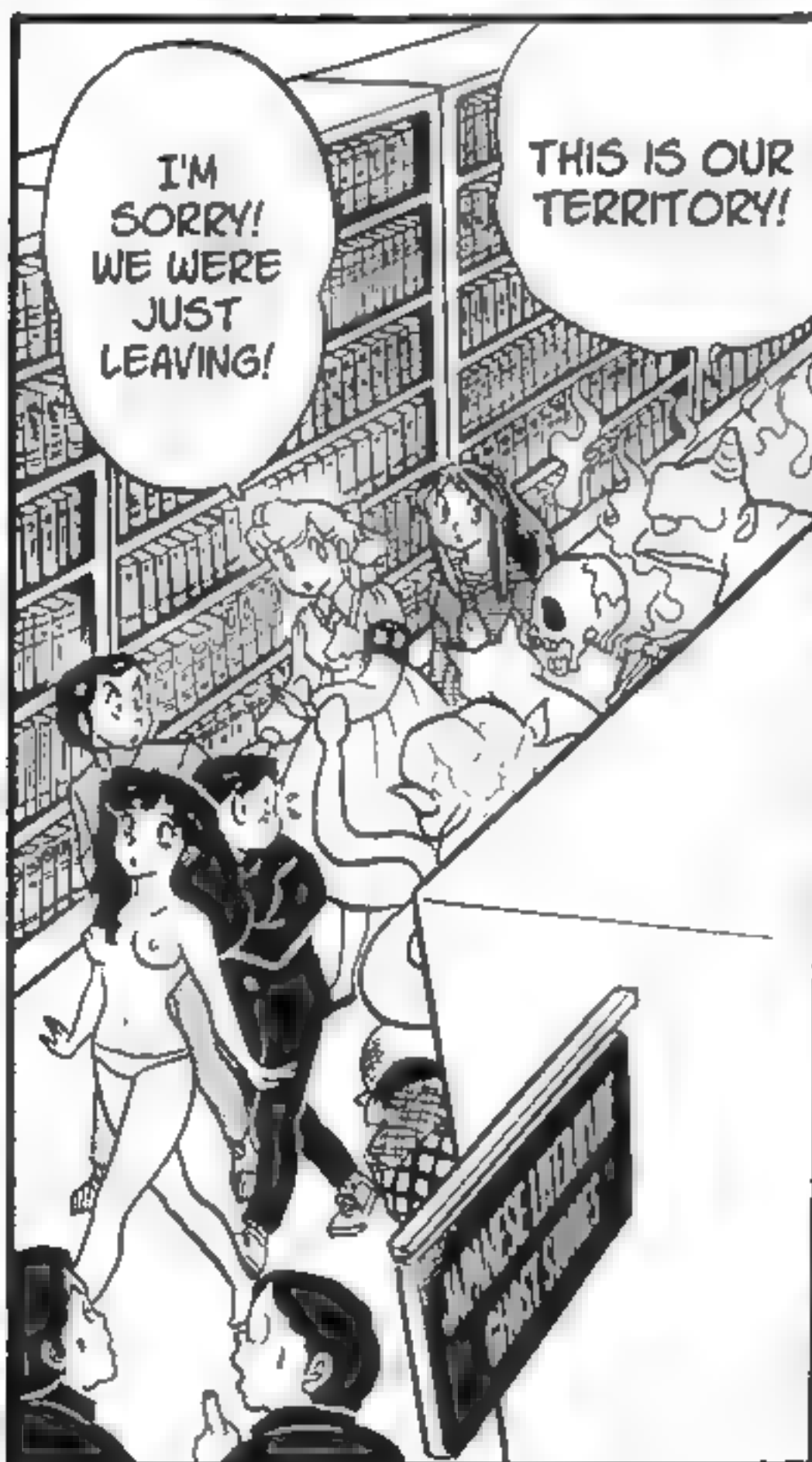










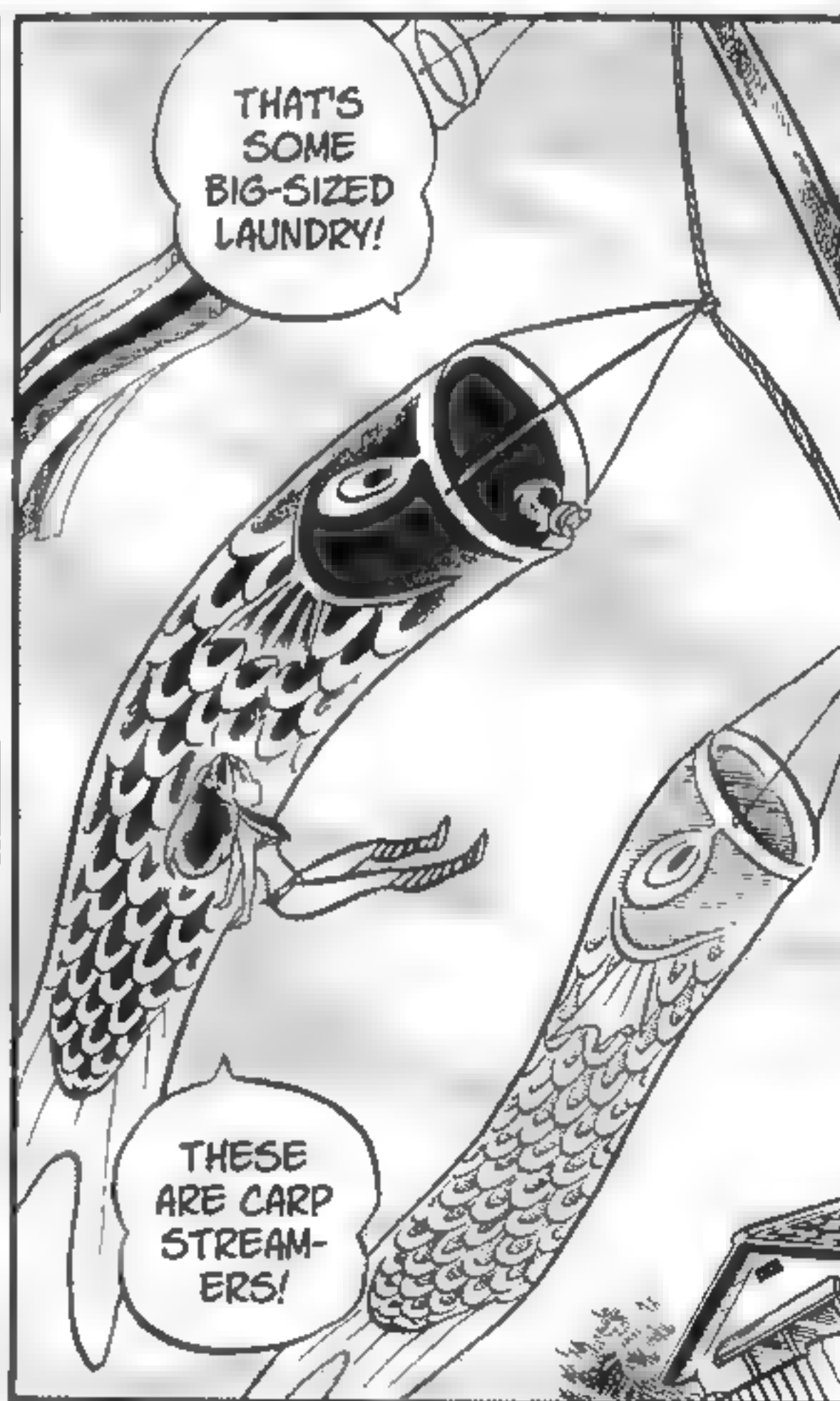
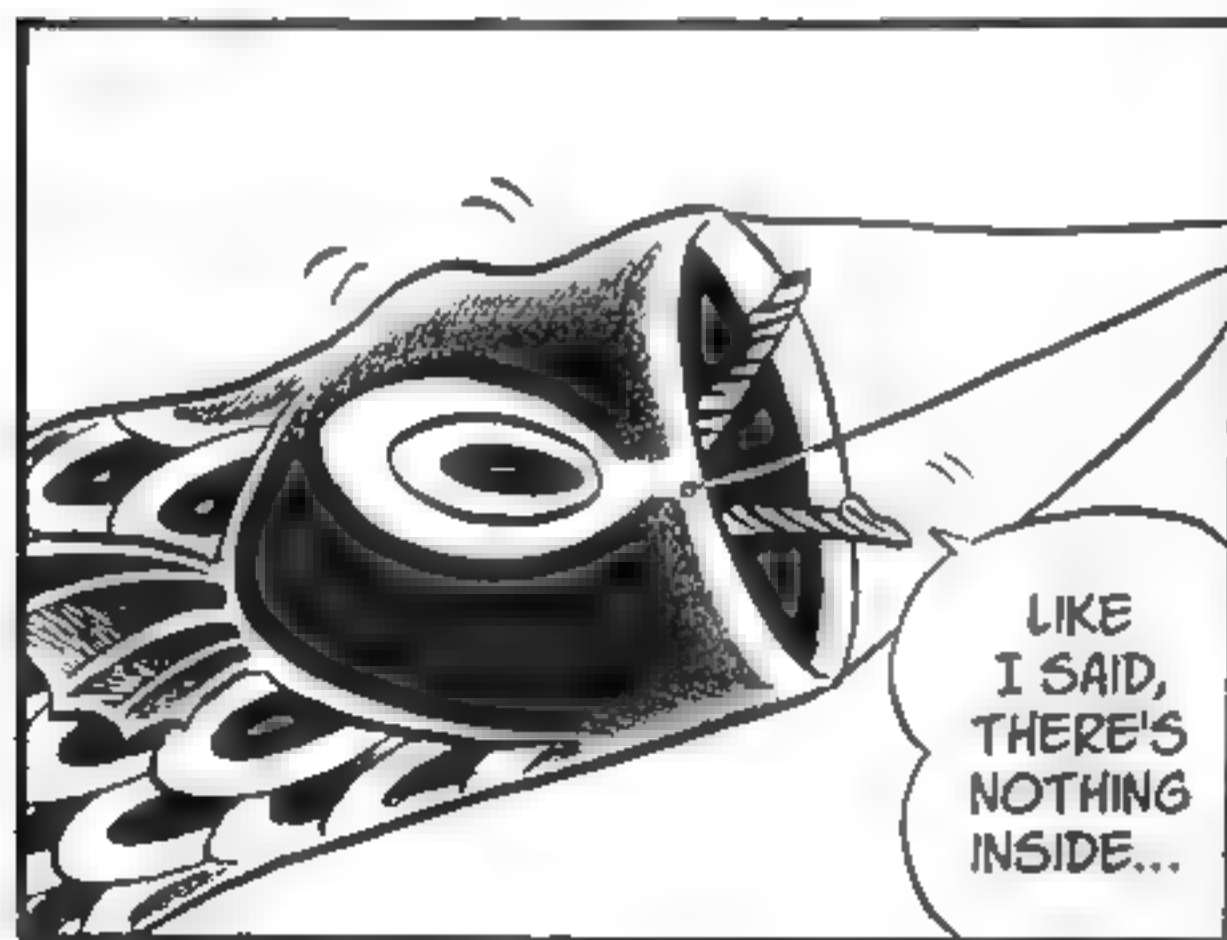


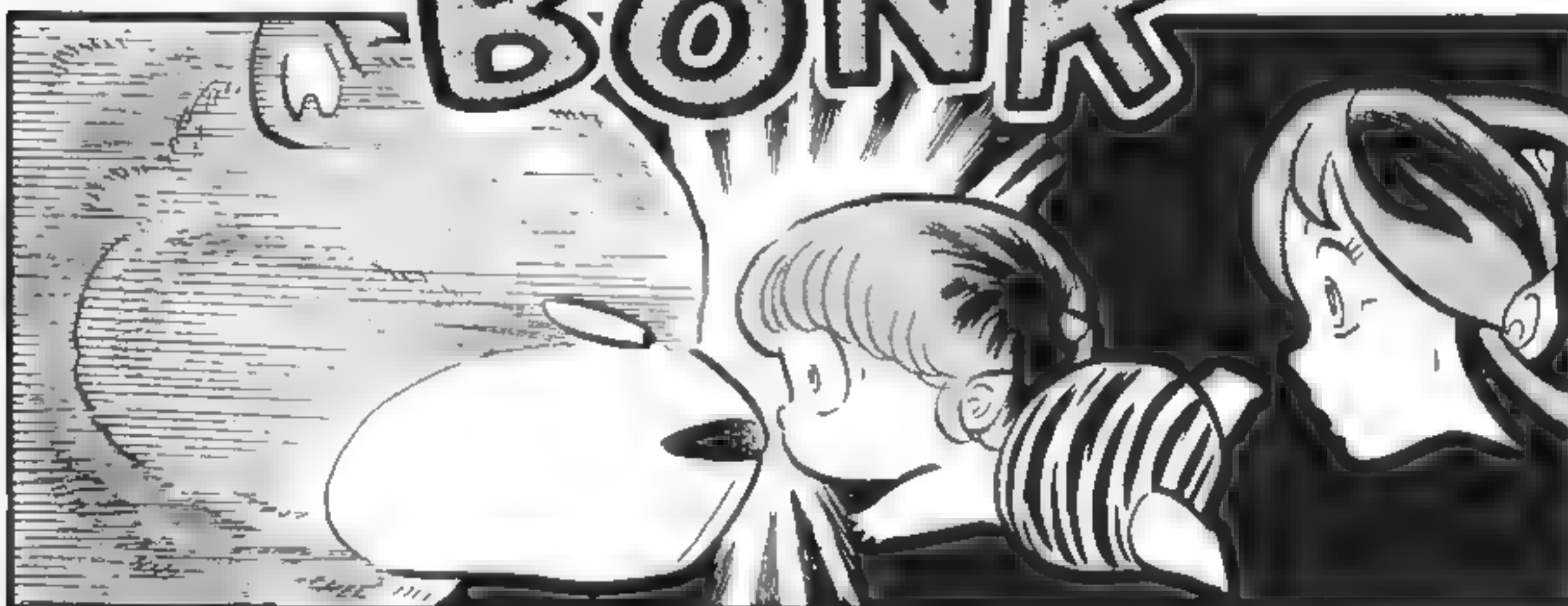
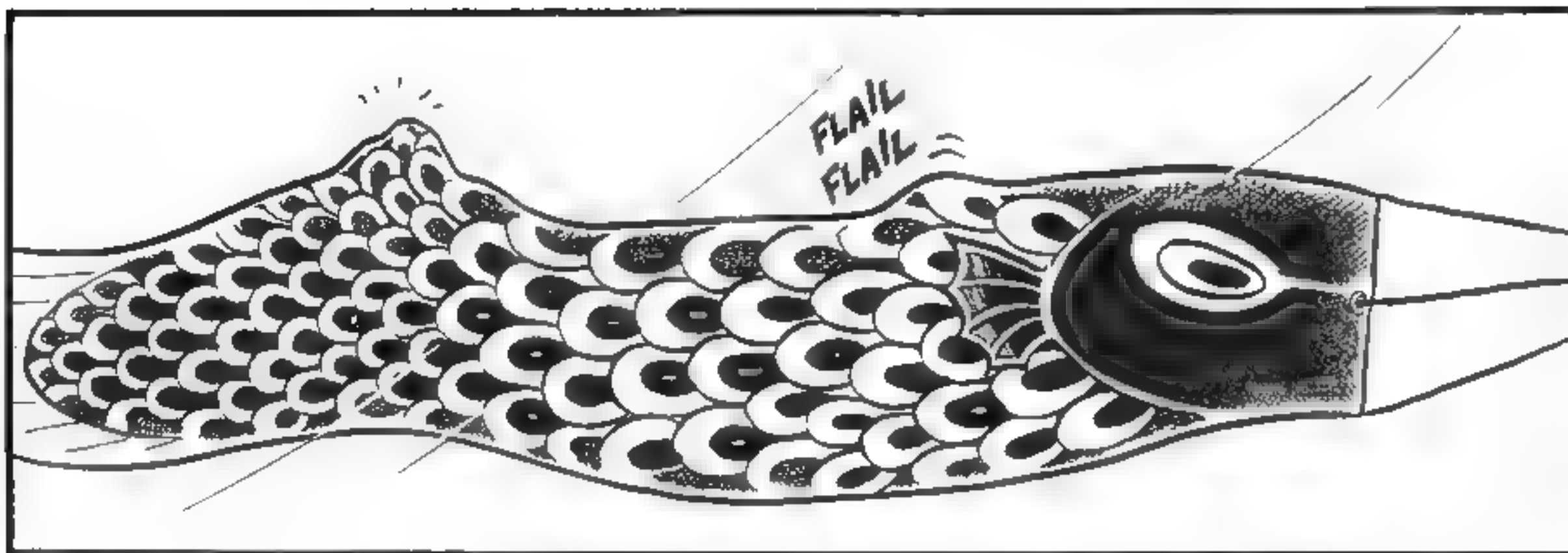


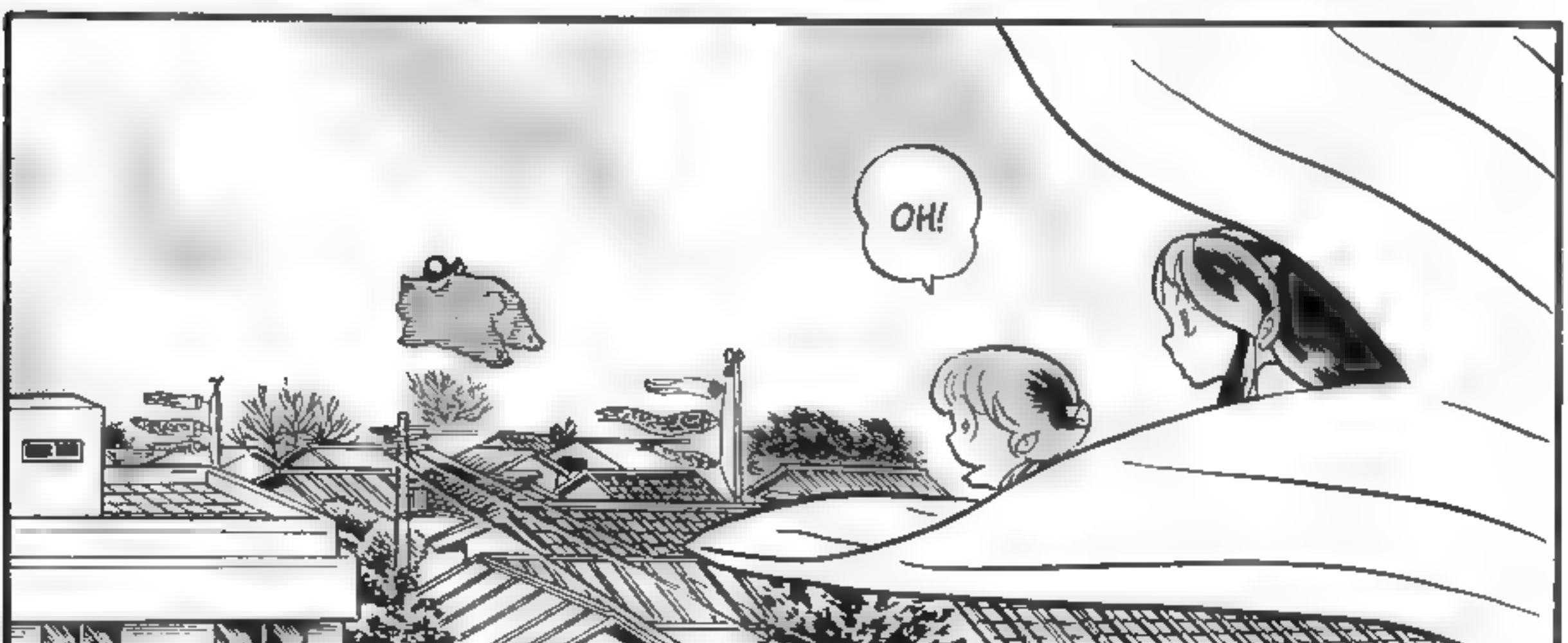
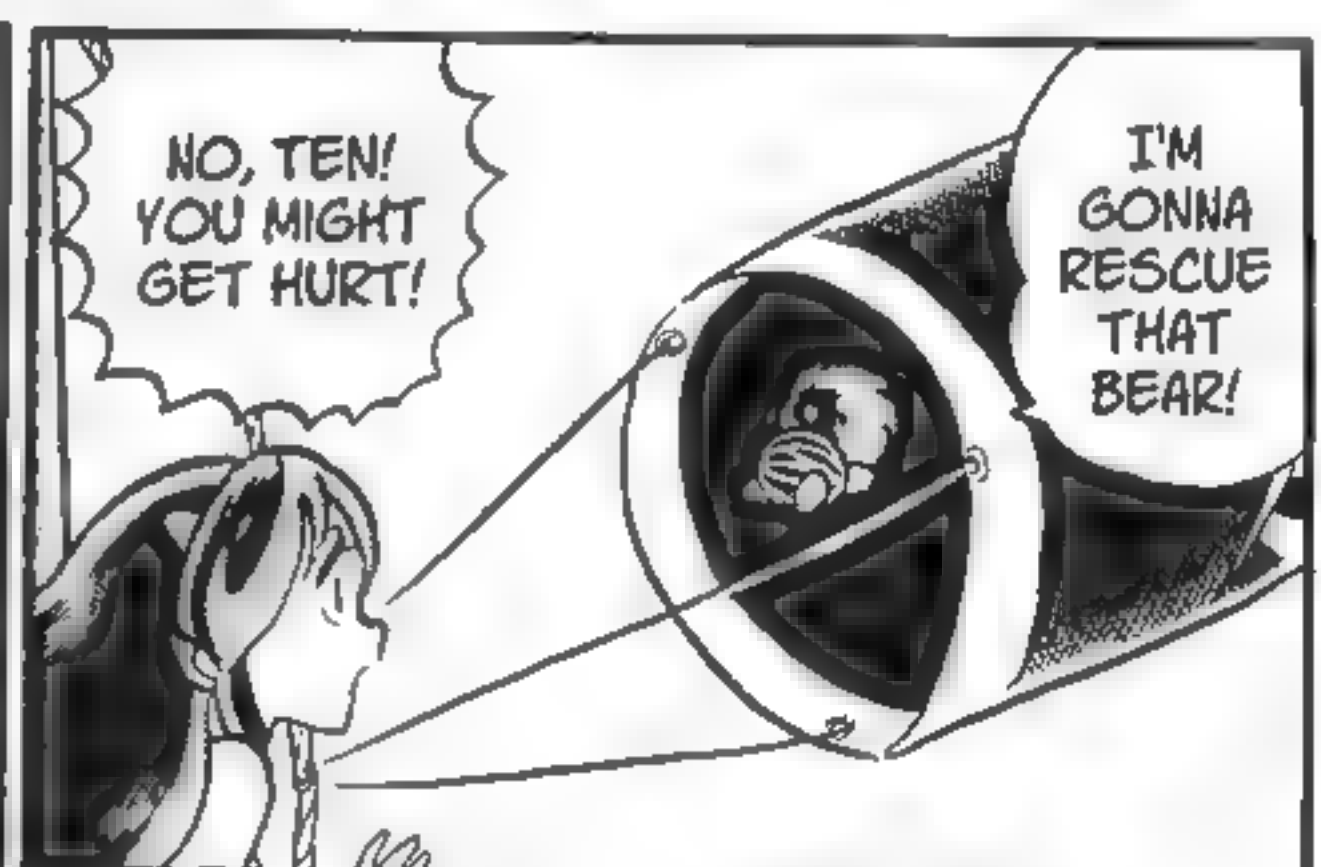
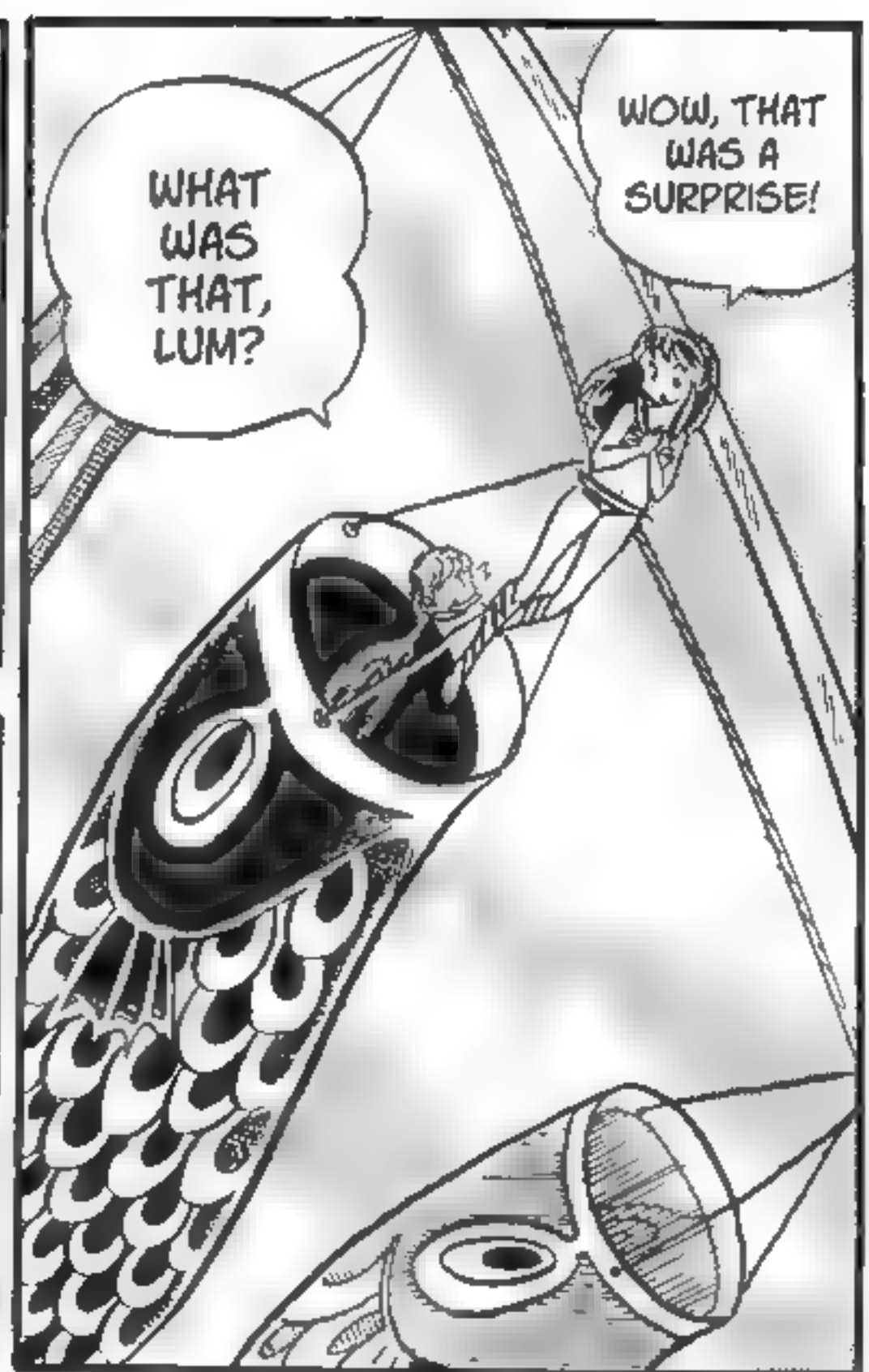


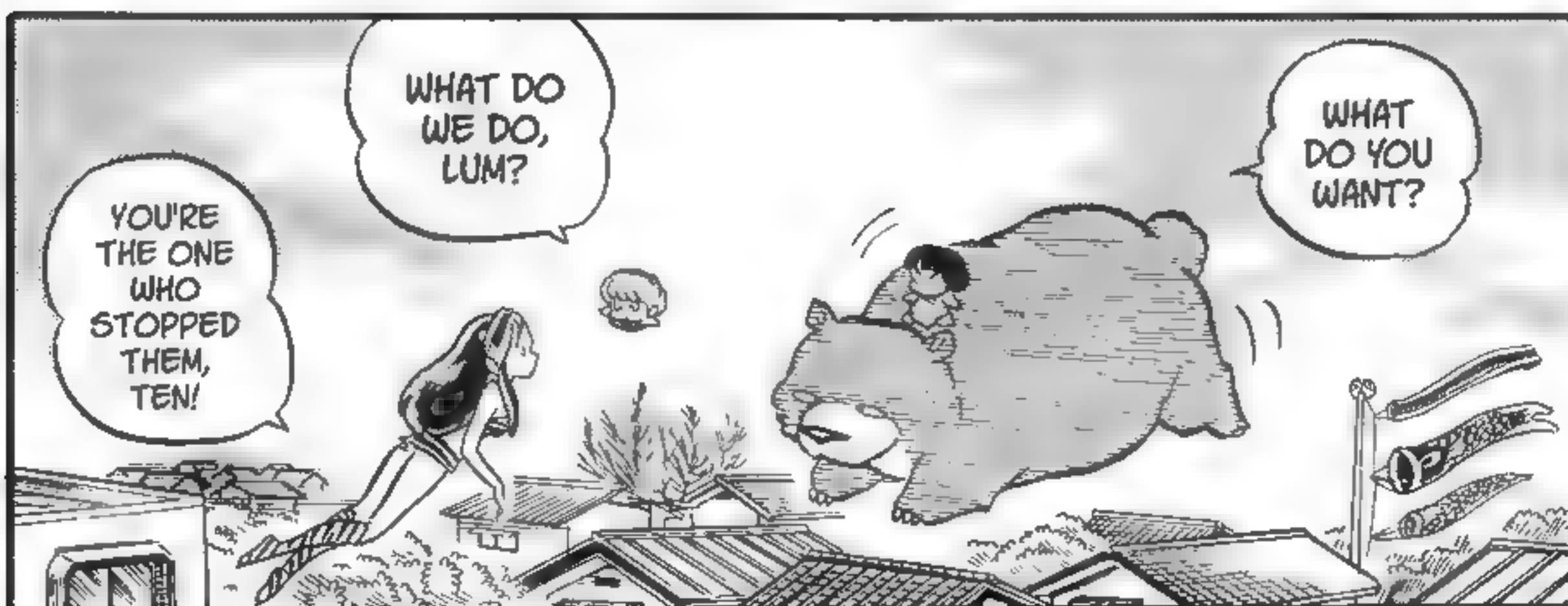
CHAPTER 22: CHILDREN'S DAY FRIGHT!



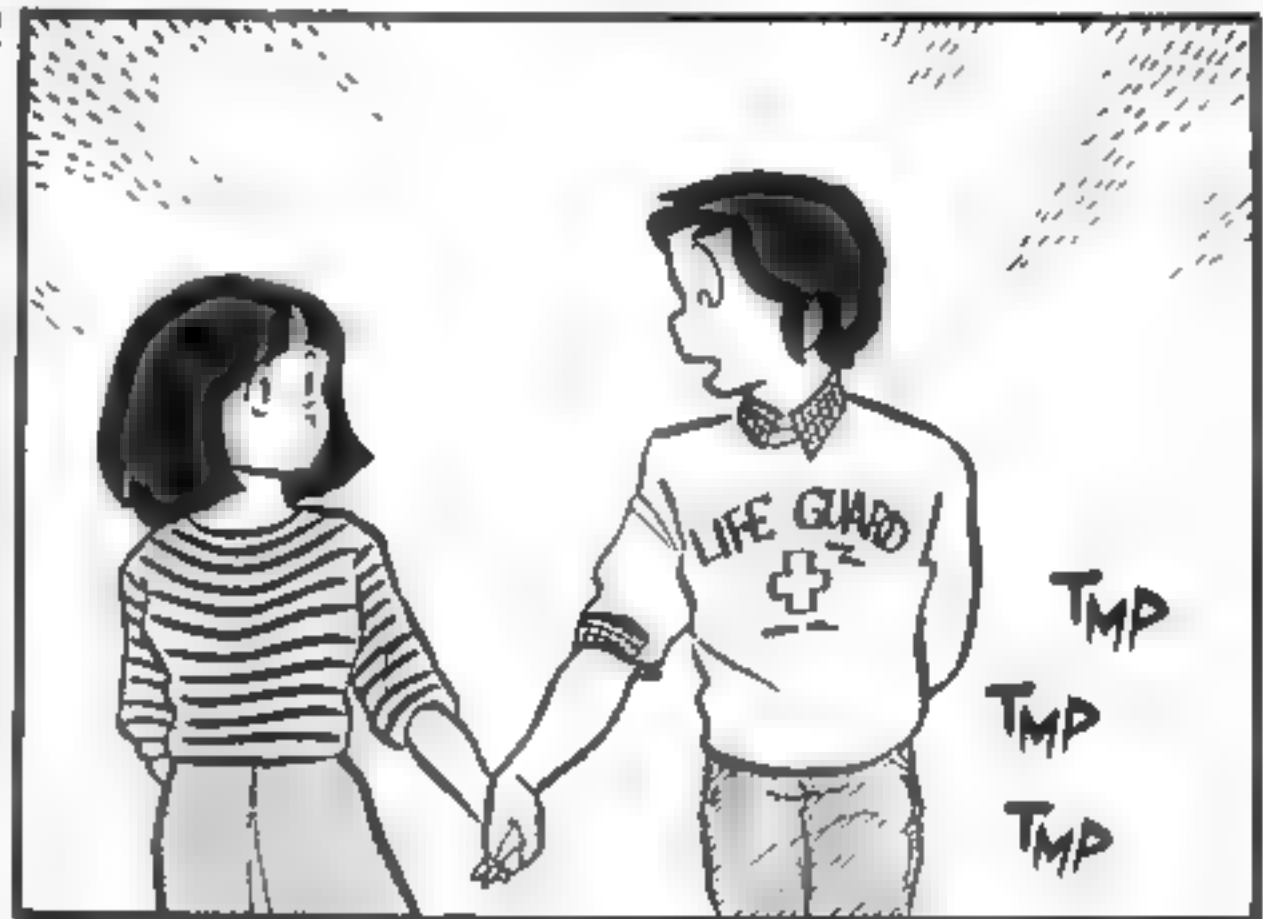




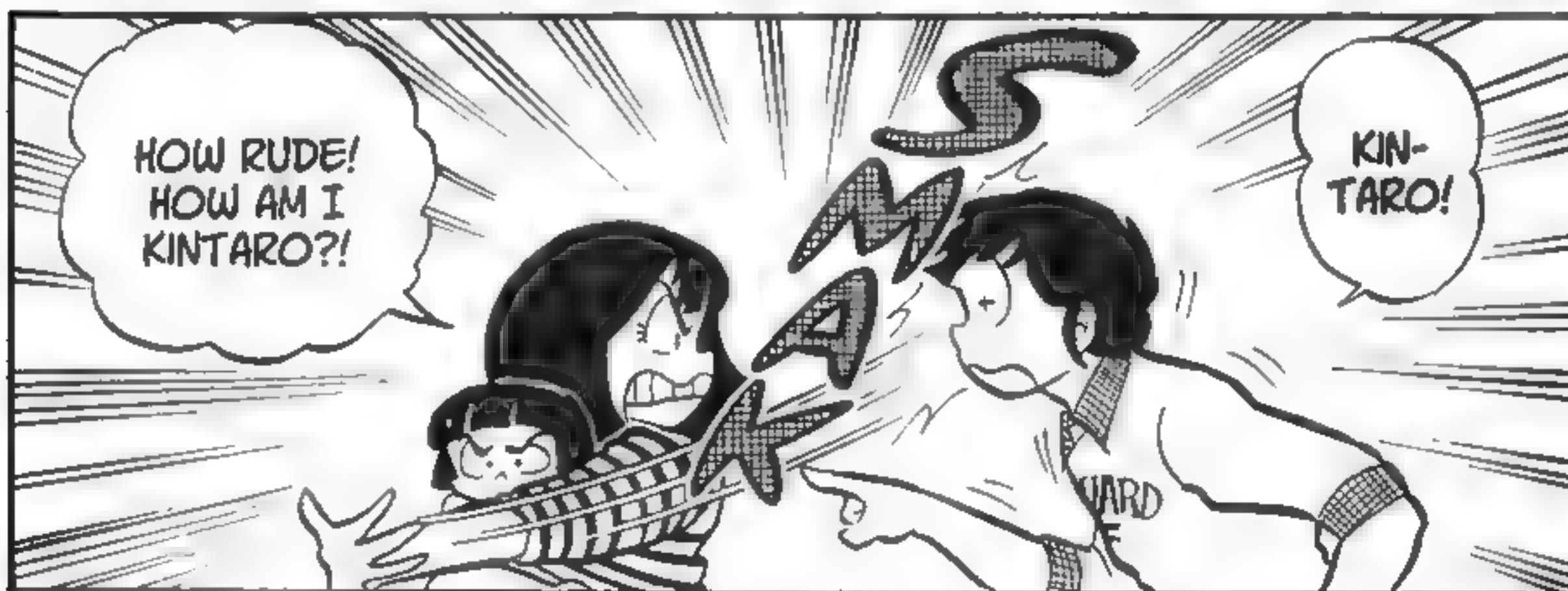


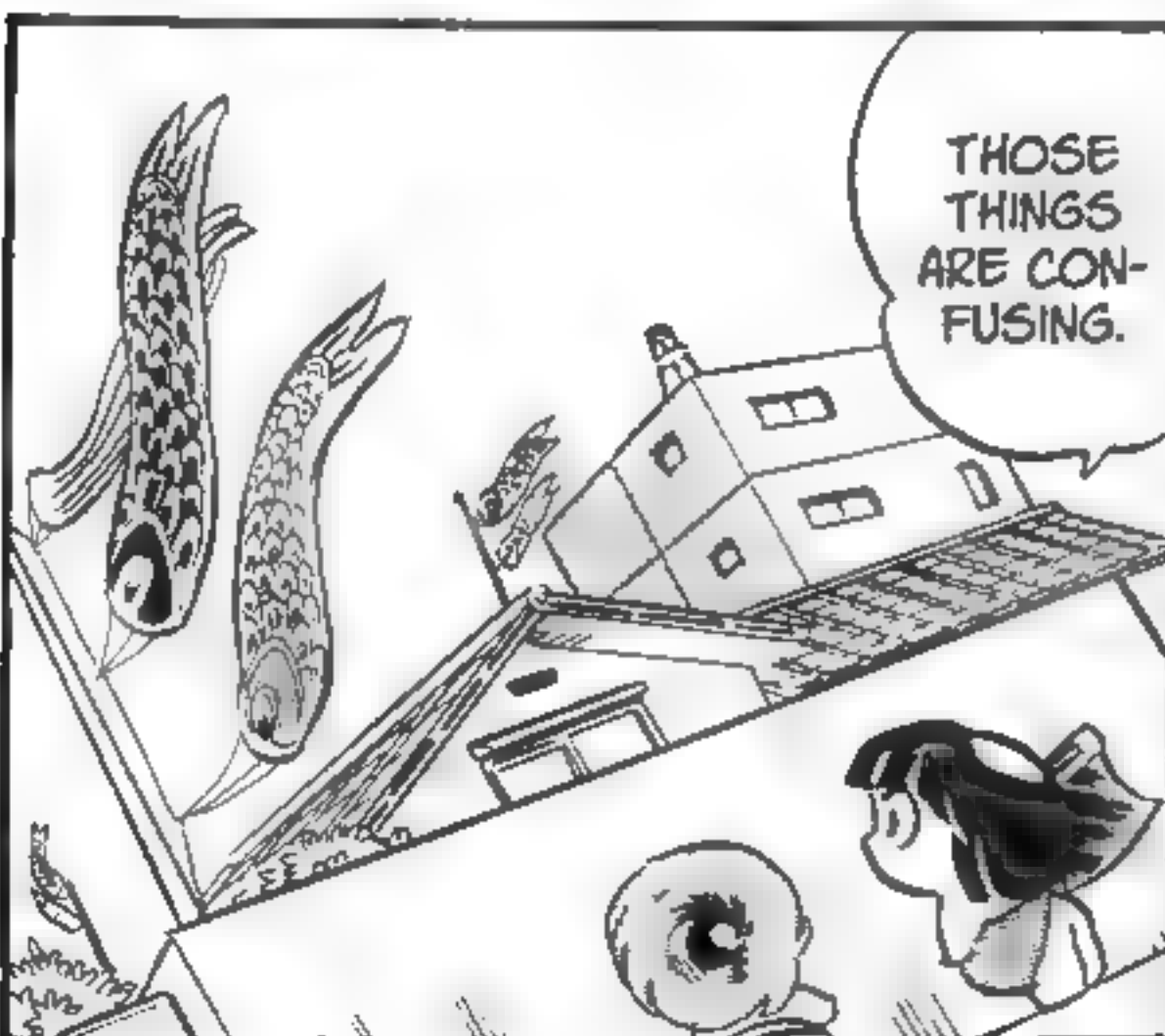


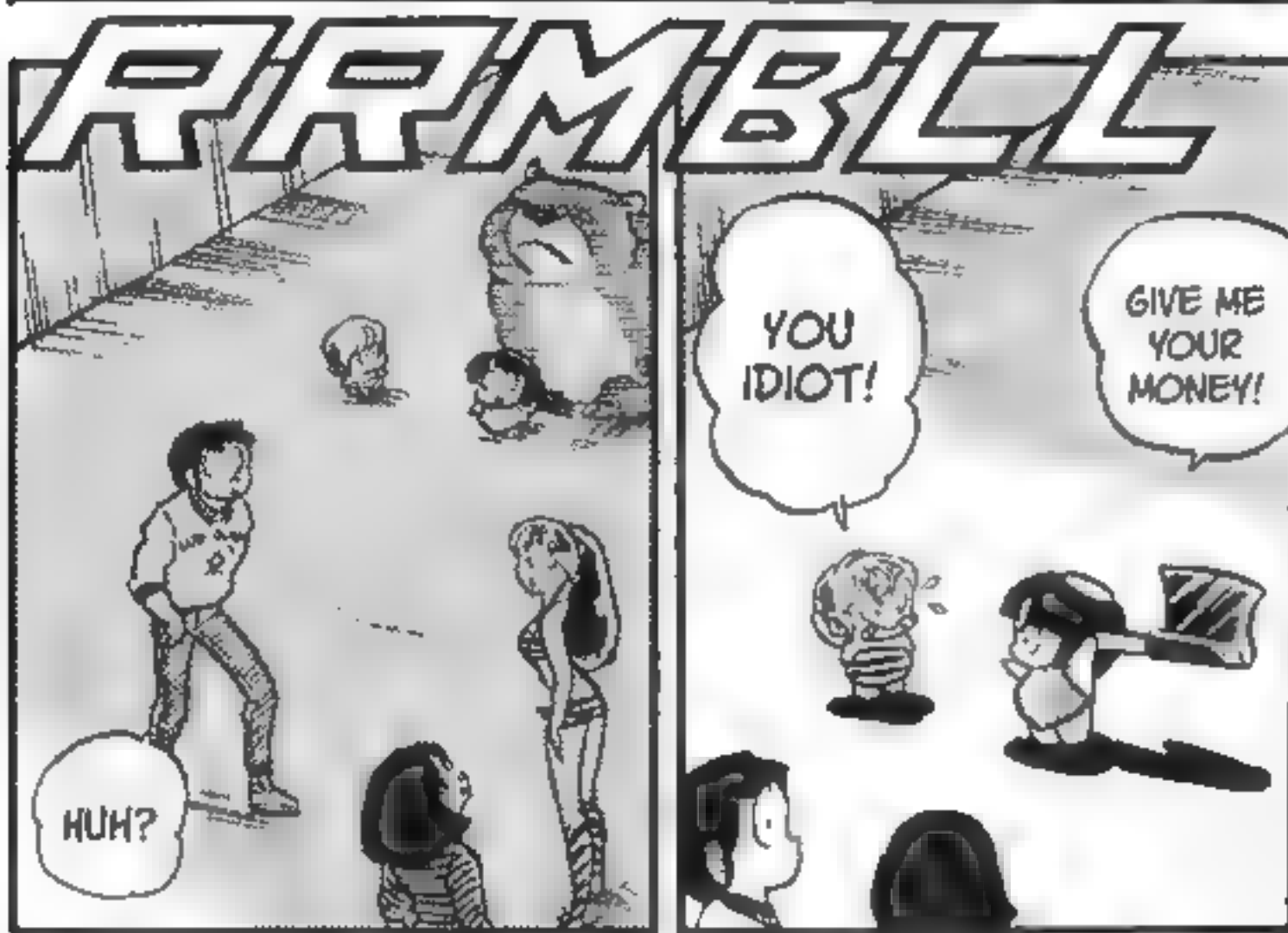
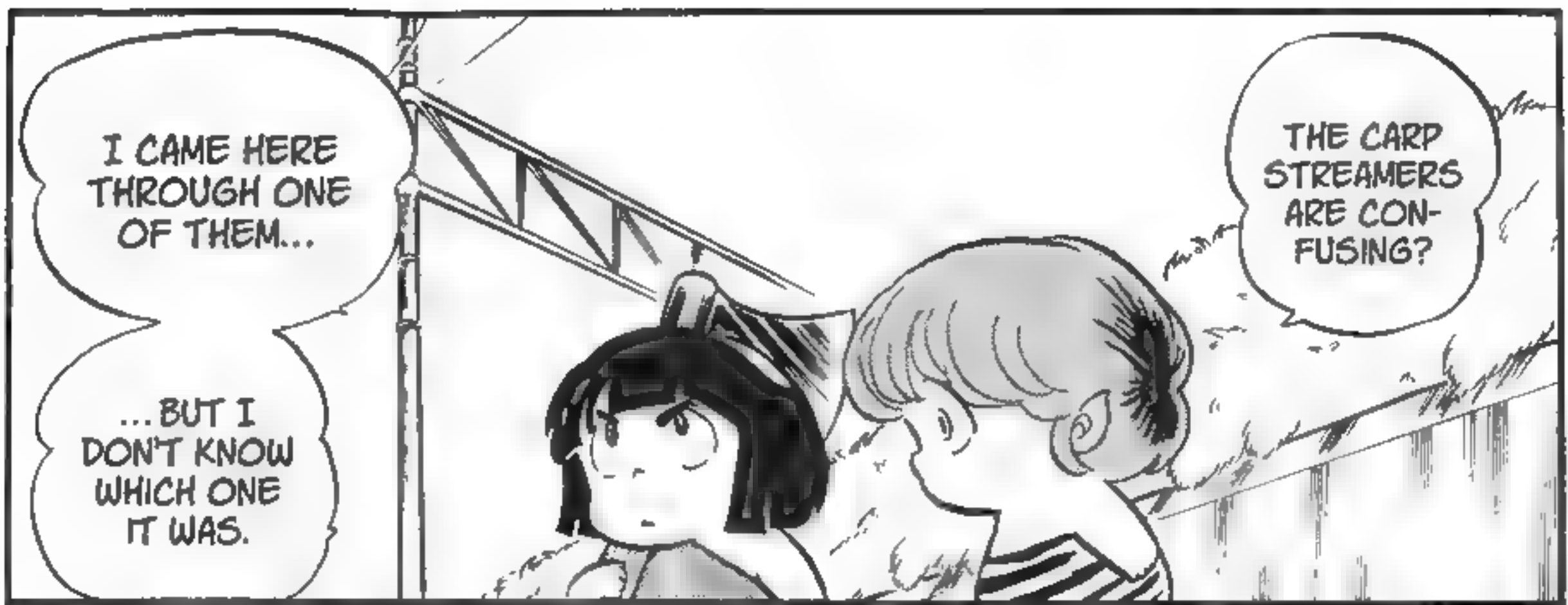


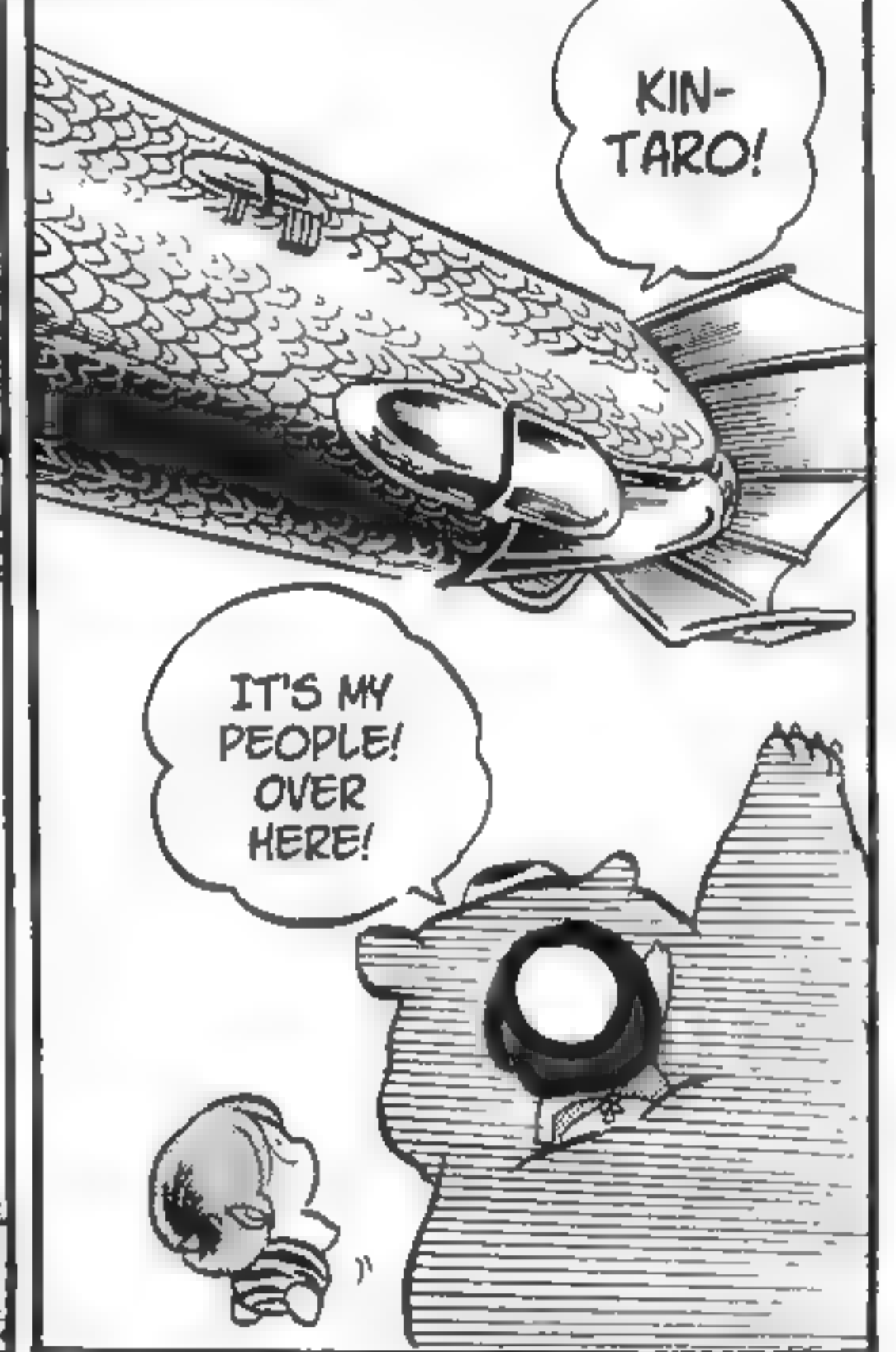
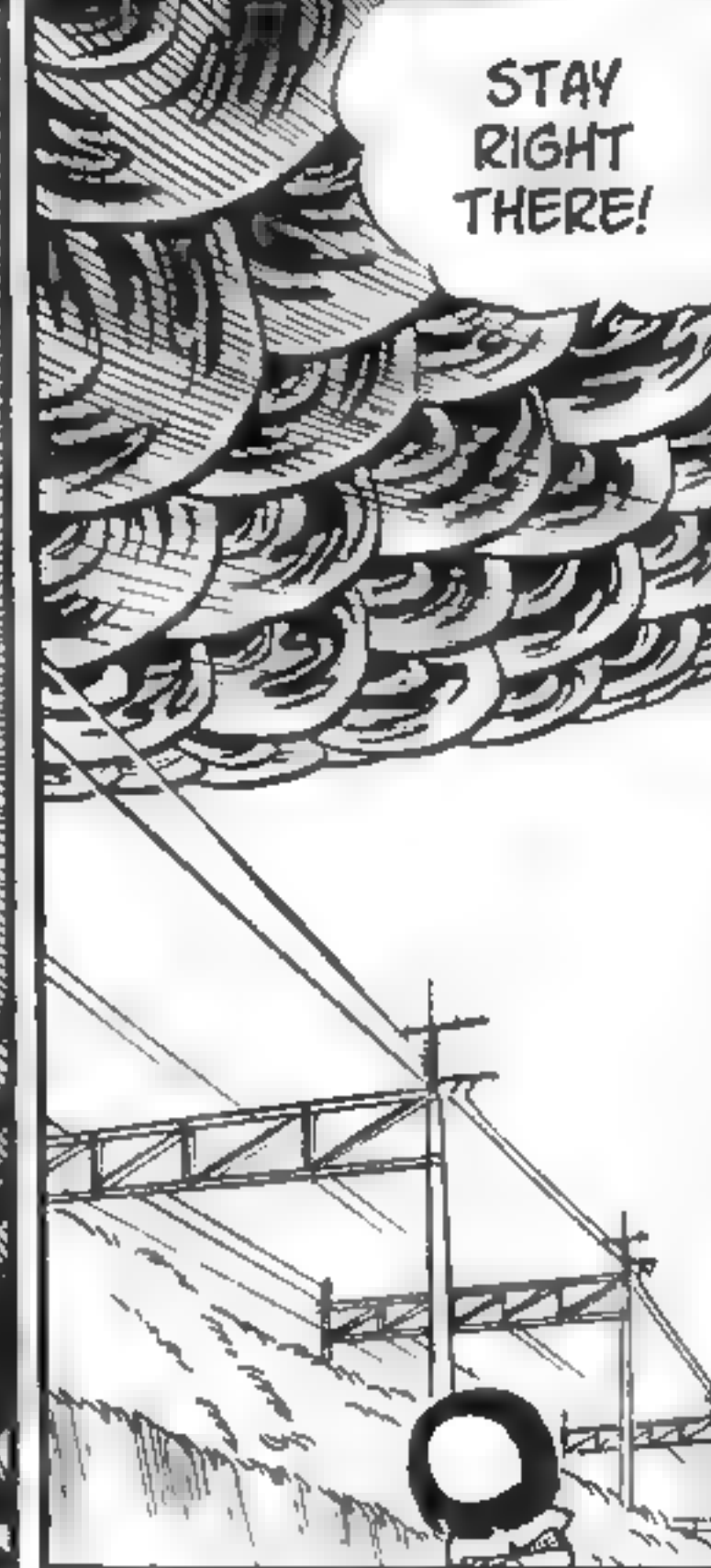
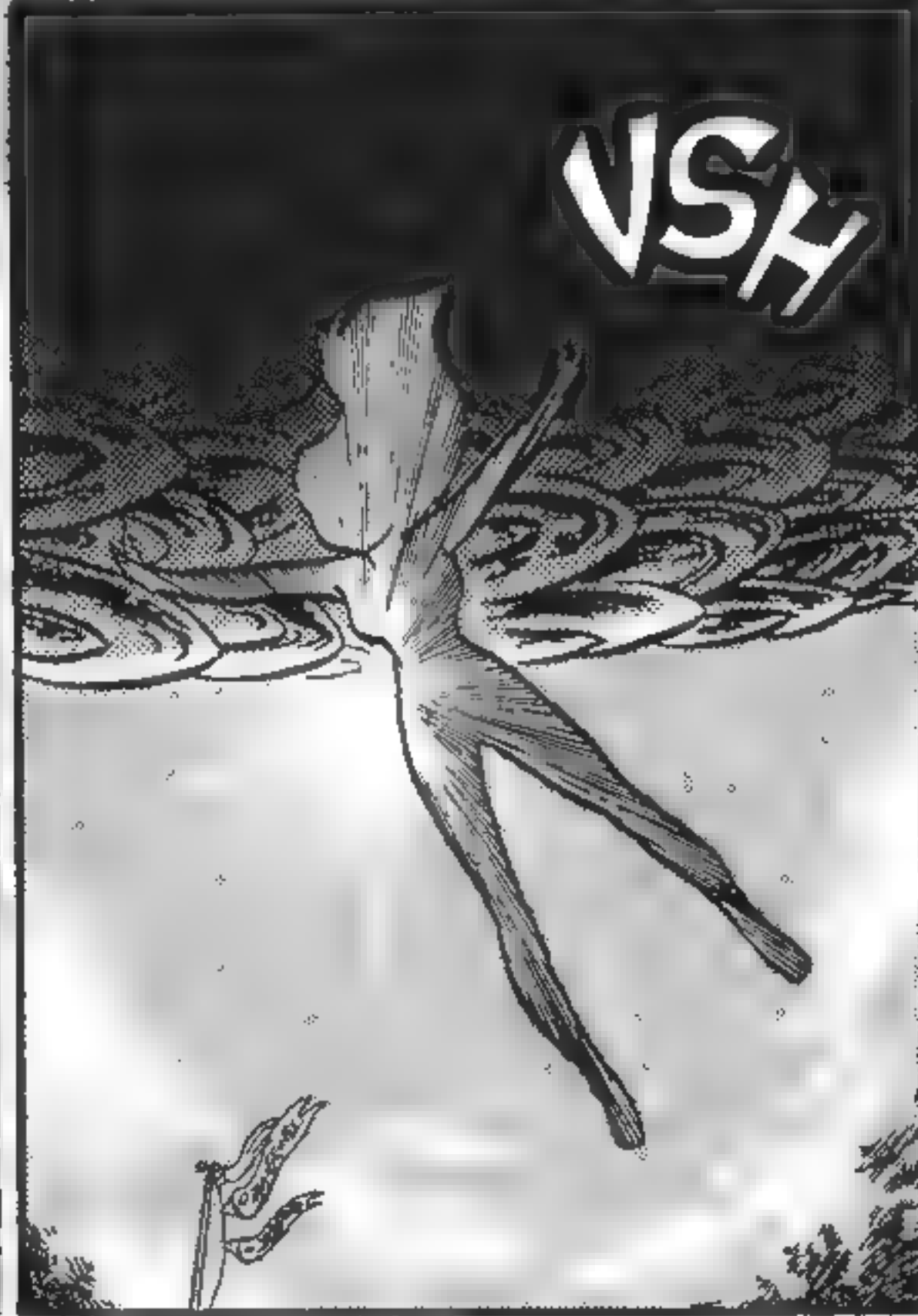
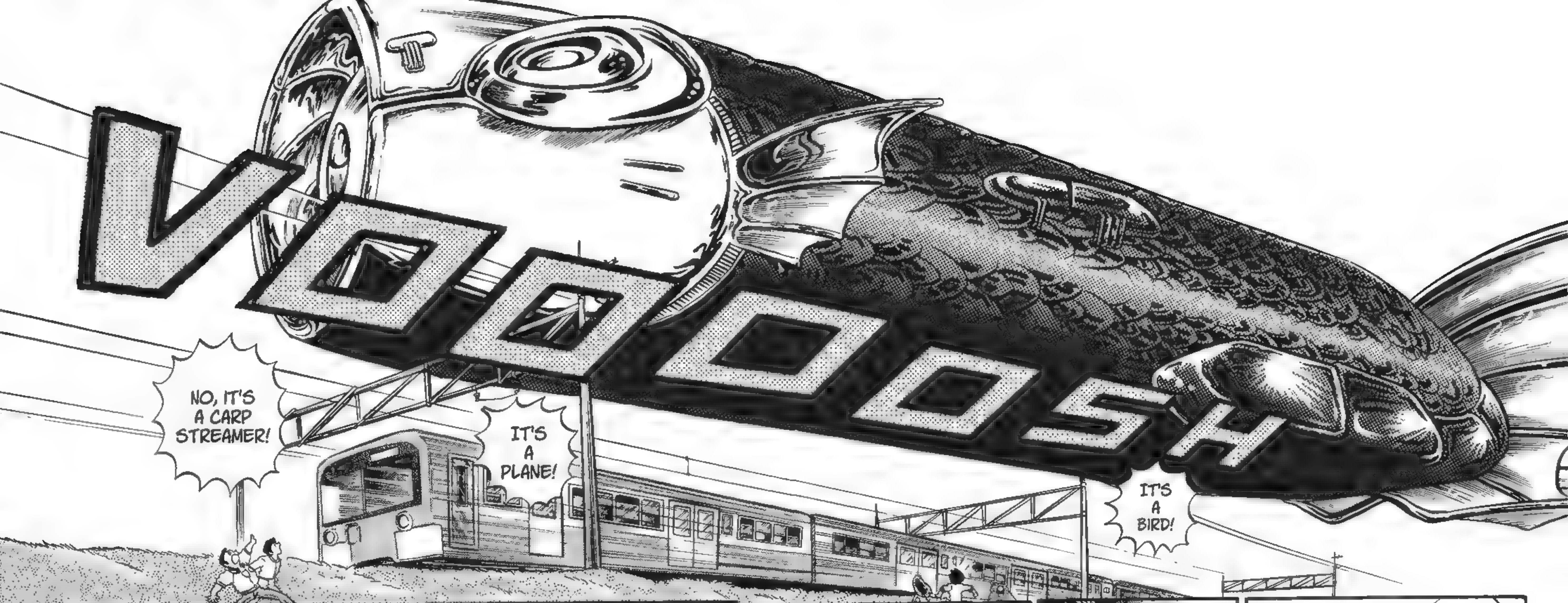


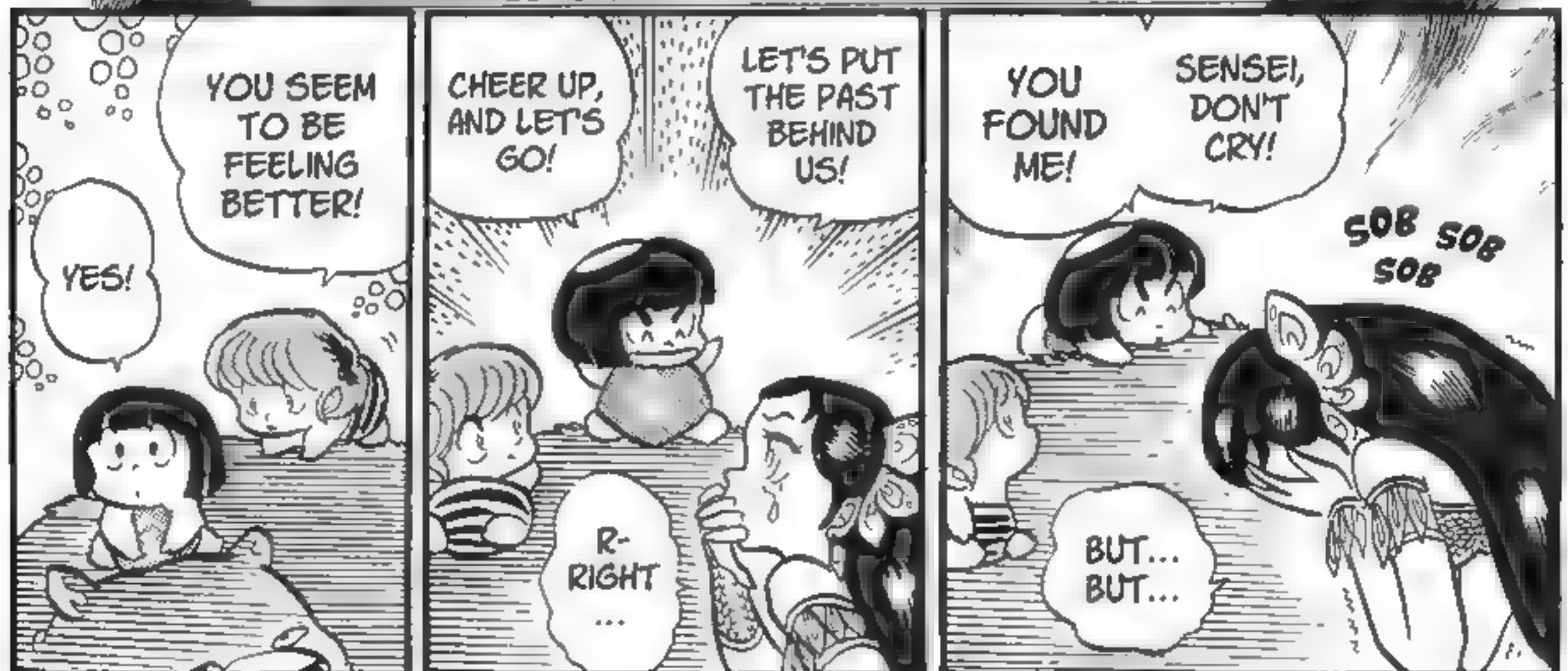
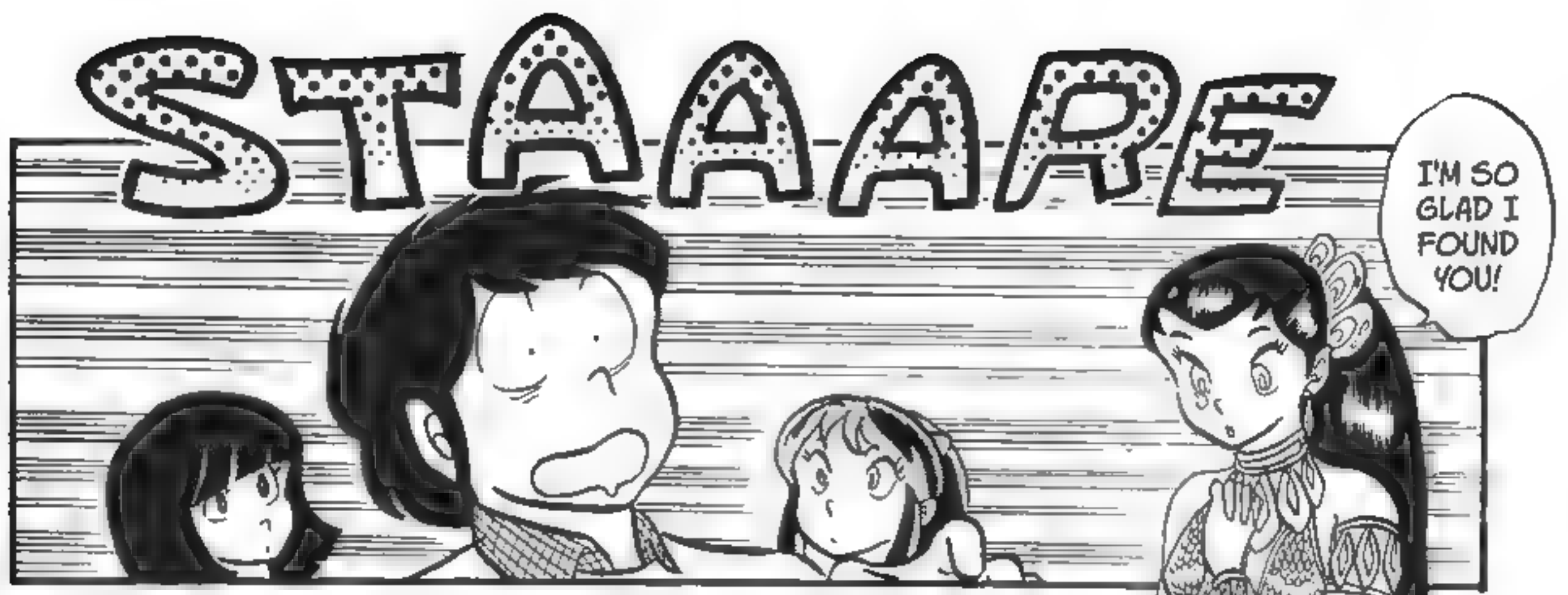


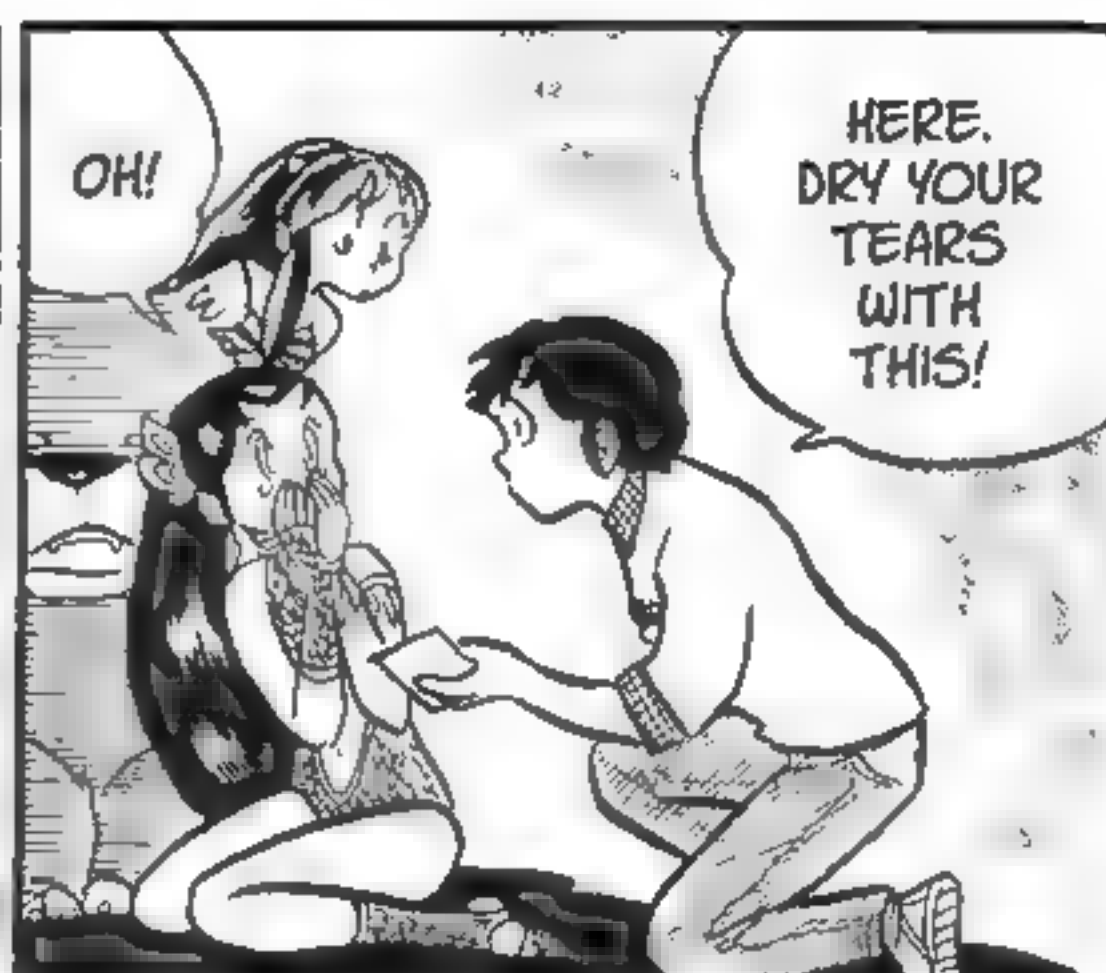
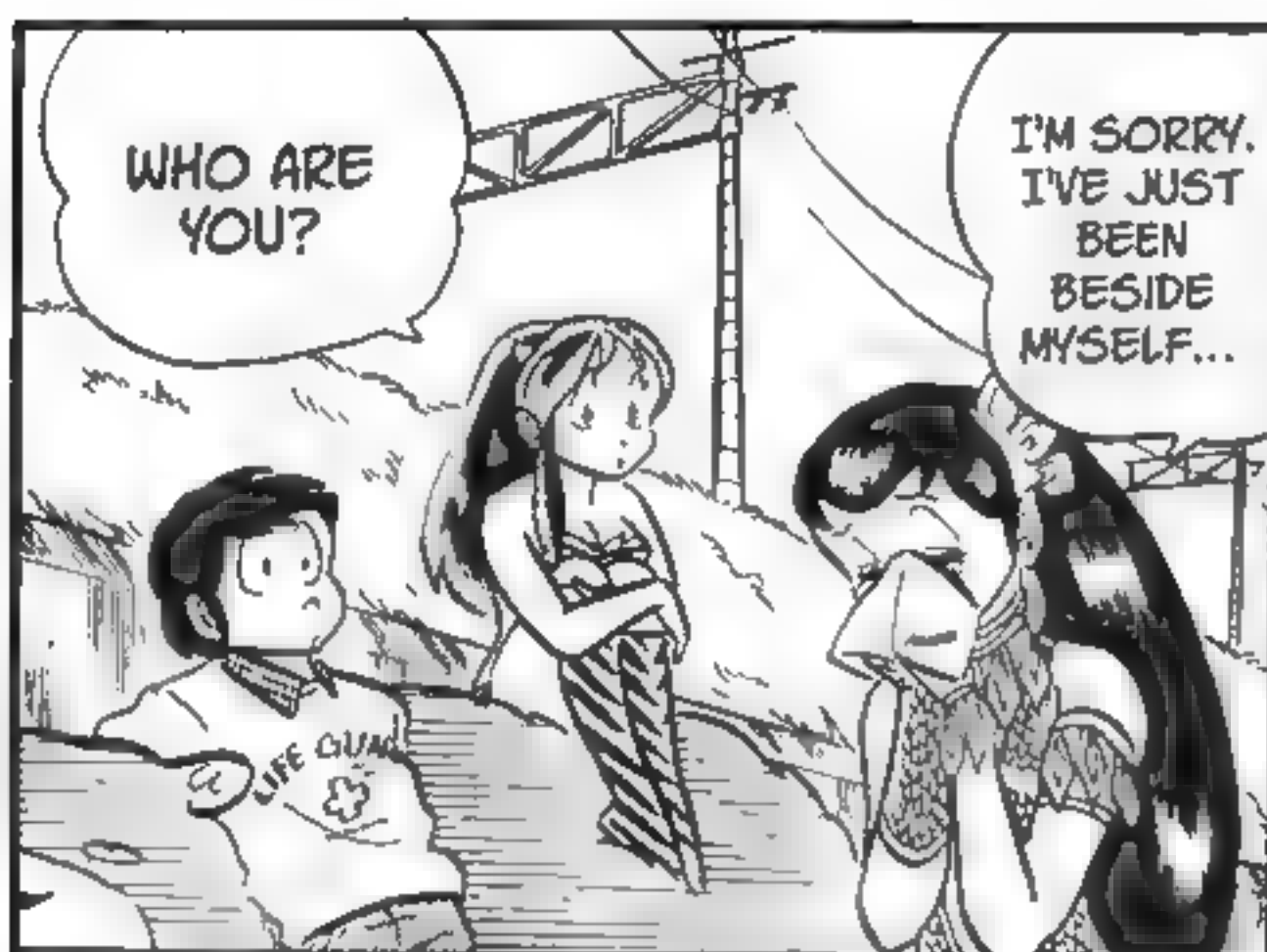


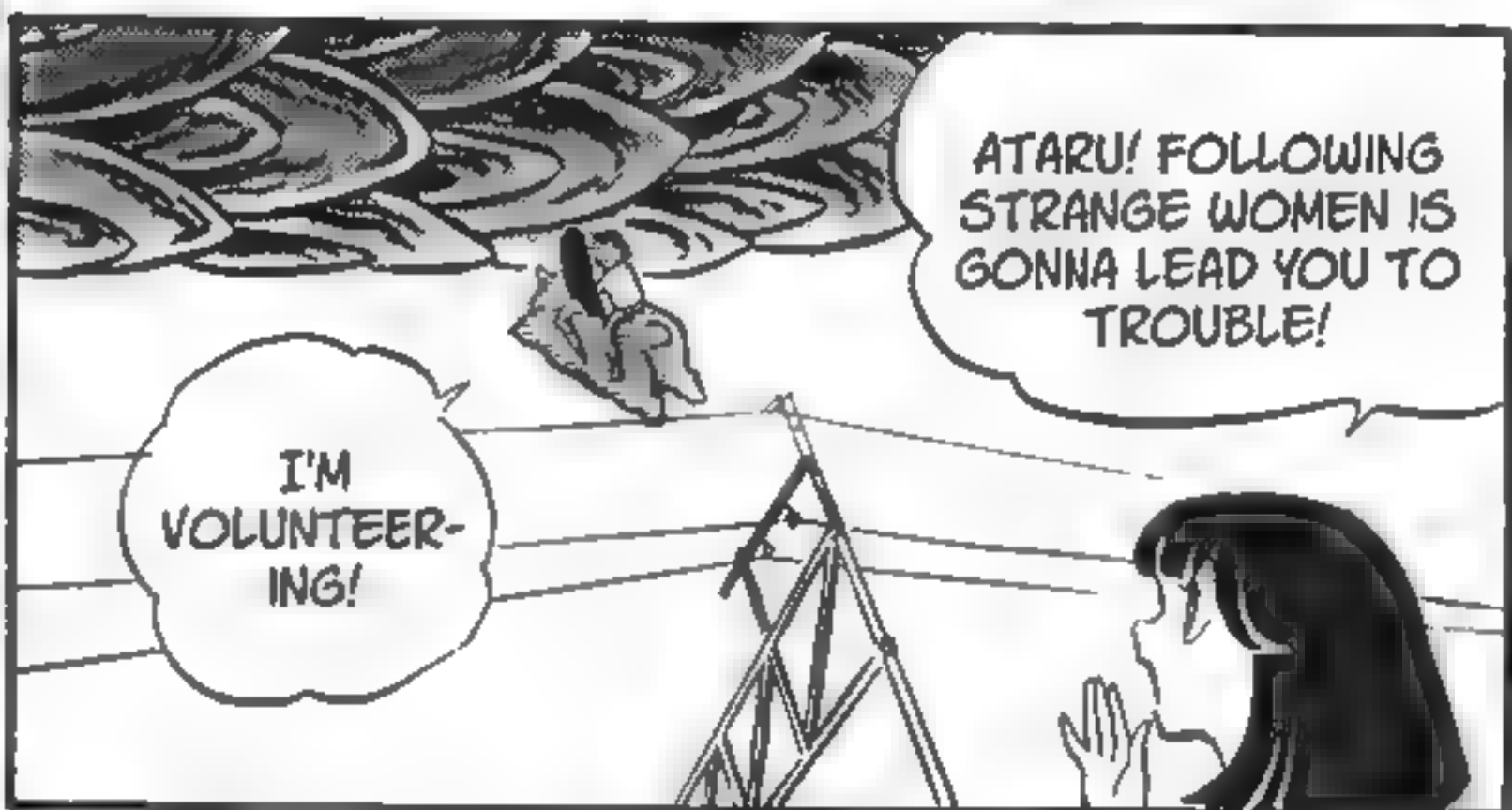












URUSEI YATSURA ★

DATA FILE 08

Ataru's Habits

When You Find Something, Pick it Up!

Ataru is always finding things. And not just inanimate things, either. Whether it's an object or an animal, by default Ataru automatically picks up whatever he finds.

When Ataru's classmate Kosuke observes, "Dude, you pick up everything!" Ataru responds proudly, "It's an old habit from childhood" (volume 2, chapter 12 "Who's That Baby?"). In this instance, Ataru has picked up a pacifier—an object of very little value to anyone but a baby.

Where on earth does this behavior come from? To solve that riddle, we take a close look in this edition at Ataru's penchant for finding things!

▼ Ataru is the kind of guy who picks things up from the ground (volume 2, chapter 12 "Who's That Baby?")





◀ Of course, thrift is a virtue...
(volume 3, chapter 16 "Kunoichi, Running in Nara")

STUDY 1

Instinctual Scavenging ①

He Scavenges Useful (?) Objects

Once, on a school trip, Ataru picks up a scroll that was lost by Kaede, a female ninja, or *kunoichi* (volume 3, chapter 16 "Kunoichi, Running in Nara"). He says, "Should make good scrap paper! I love finding stuff!" Is that a problem? But anyway...

On another occasion, Ataru picks up a mysterious egg he finds in the schoolyard (volume 1, chapter 11 "Eros"). When a female classmate pleads, "I want it!" Ataru responds, "Too bad! I'm eating it later!"

Anyone can relate to Ataru's penchant for picking things up in anticipation that they'll come in handy later.

Psychologically, it's the equivalent of the person who keeps an old vase in the closet forever gathering dust (because it might be valuable one day even if it seems junky now) or the mother who saves pretty ribbons and wrapping paper from gifts.

These examples are still behaviors that a normal person can relate to. Of course, it's harder to connect to the decision to eat an unidentified egg, but given Ataru's normal tendencies toward gluttony, we take it in stride.





▲ First-grader Ataru picks up an ice cream from the ground like a fish taking bait (volume 5, chapter 3 "A Century by Age Three")

STUDY 2

Instinctual Scavenging ②

He Also Picks Things Up Reflexively with No Thought at All

Often we have the impulse to pick something up, but our common sense overrides that impulse. As children, our mothers scolded many of us when we tried to pick up candy in the street and eat it. Ataru was definitely one of those children.

When a group of teenaged girls throw an ice cream over the young Ataru's head to distract him, shouting, "Here, kid! You want this, right?" Ataru goes after it and happily scarfs it down (volume 5, chapter 3 "A Century by Age Three").

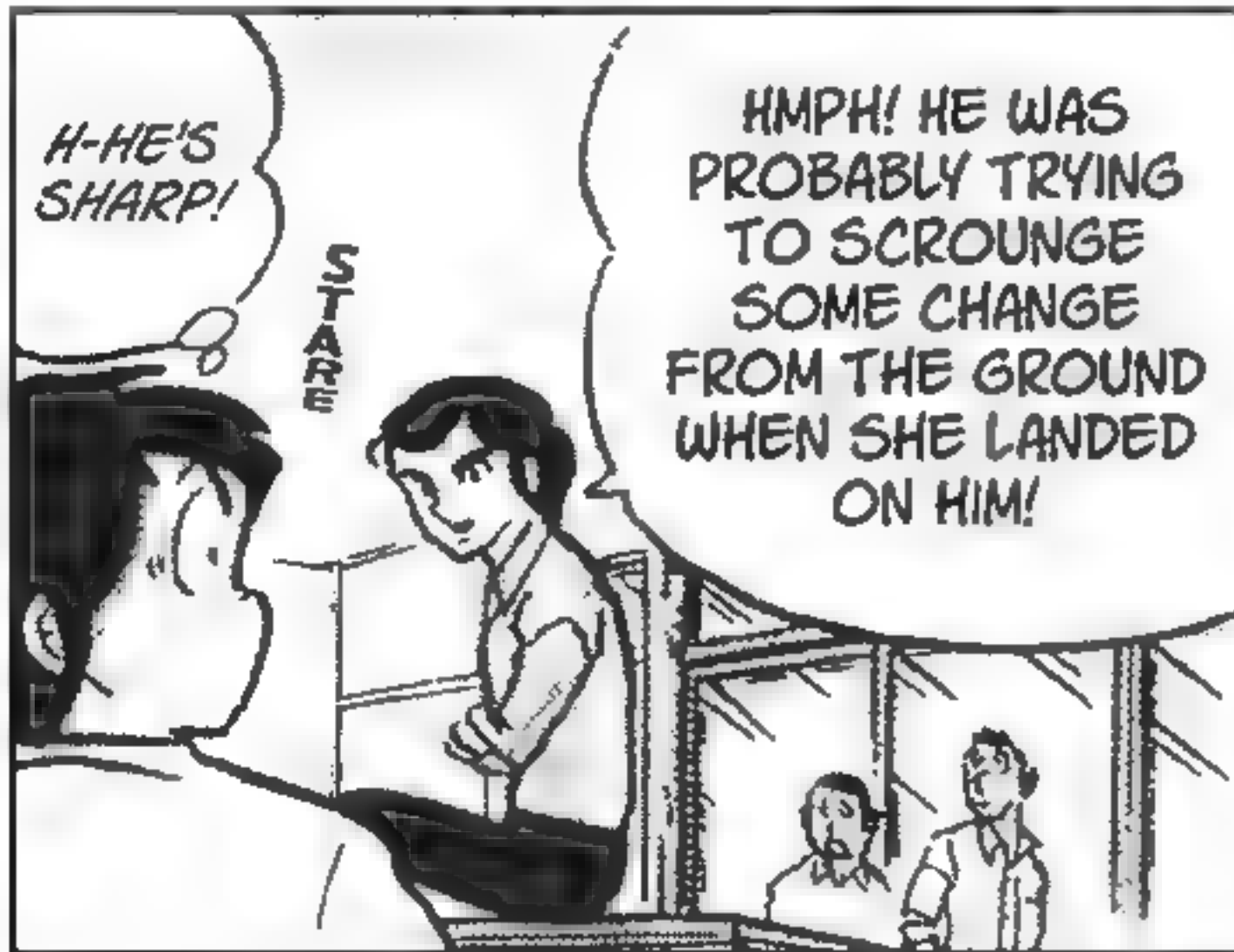
He remains much the same in adulthood. When Lum finds a cupcake on the street, Ataru pops it in his mouth with delight, commenting, "Well, since someone

dropped it..." (volume 8, chapter 16 "Love: Darling in Danger"). Ataru's habit of scavenging remains the same throughout life!

Moreover, when Ataru is focused on picking something up, he becomes blind to everything else. A suicidal woman lands on him as he attempts to pick up a fallen 100-yen coin (volume 2, chapter 18 "Magic Running"). In these instances, he's more like an animal going after bait than a human being.



◀ Ataru nearly dies after eating a cupcake Ran dropped (volume 8, chapter 16 "Love: Darling in Danger")



◀ Mendo's conjecture is right on the mark (volume 2, chapter 18 "Magic Running")

When Ataru spots a target, he goes right for it. In other words, when Ataru is scavenging something from the ground, his rational mind is not functioning at all.

STUDY 3

Instinctual Scavenging ③

He Also Picks Things Up Whether He Wants Them or Not



There are some things that a normal person just does not want. Ataru goes for those things too.

This is seen when he is pursuing Kaede, the ninja. Ataru follows her trail by way of the things she's left behind, picking them up as he goes: an empty rice bowl and chopsticks, a *dango* skewer, and so forth. "I wish she'd leave a more romantic trail... Like a hair clip or comb..." he remarks wistfully, the empty rice bowl and skewer at his feet (volume 3, chapter 18 "Kunoichi Forever").

When something is lying in the street, Ataru seems compelled to retrieve it, even if he does not want it.



▲ As with women, Ataru instinctively lunges toward whatever comes into his line of sight (volume 6, chapter 2 "Urgent Prayers!")

When Ataru's mother proffers a good luck charm from Sugawara no Michizane (the famous deity of learning) in front of Ataru as he is studying and says "Here you go!" Ataru chomps it down without looking to see what it is (volume 6, chapter 2 "Urgent Prayers!"). He seems to respond to such stimuli on a purely animal level—much like Pavlov's dog.

In conclusion, Ataru's propensity for scavenging is much like his inclination to hit on women—pure habit. Without thinking, he lunges for things on the ground or moving objects as a function of some irrepressible (?) instinct. The fact that the objects he retrieves are weird and ridiculous in quantity is attributable to Ataru's irrational and impulsive nature. But in the end, does this habit do him more harm than good? Opinions are divided.

Burn rate: Approximately 50 percent! The two are a good match!

They say a friend you can fight with is a true friend—but a fight with Ten is a matter of life and death since he can breathe fire! In their early encounters, Ataru is a sitting duck. Over time, he gets better at dodging Ten's flaming attacks.

In the beginning, Ataru is consistently roasted by Ten's fire. Over the course of the full series, however, we see that the Ten's attacks hit Ataru at a rate of about 50 percent. As rivals, they seem fairly evenly matched.

The standard shield against the flames is a frying pan (Of course!)

Ataru uses a number of implements in his skirmishes with Ten, both offensively and defensively, including frying pans, a pot lid, a tray, a bucket, a book, etc. Of these, the frying pan is by far the most prevalent, coming into play as many as ten times. In just one of these ten

instances, Ataru fails to block the flames even with a frying pan in hand (volume 9, chapter 2 "Deadly Fighter Snapping Turtle Ten"). Like Ataru's skills, Ten's are also honed by their frequent clashes.

When Ten loses his horns and with them his ability to breathe fire, he develops the technique of stabbing Ataru in the buttocks with the cactus that grows out of his head (volume 6, chapter 7 "My Horns Are Gone?!"). Perhaps Ten's ultimate weapon is his tenacity in the face of whatever perilous situation might befall him?!

As noted in the first edition of this column, Lum never attacks Cherry. Ten, however, does.



▲ Ataru's evolution is remarkable; note his breezy expression below! (volume 14, chapter 21 "The Haunted Parasol")

The number of times Ten blows fire at Ataru.....61
Of these, the number of times Ataru gets burned.....34

Ten's other burn victims:

Ataru's classmates (5 times), Cherry (3 times), Rupa and cohorts, messenger pigeon (twice each), Mendo, Hot Springs Emblem, Mr. Tigerstripes, Sunglasses Squad, Sakura's guest and a member of the public who participated in the Treasure Hunt Race (once each)

Rumiko Takahashi



The spotlight on Rumiko Takahashi's career began in 1978 when she won an honorable mention in Shogakukan's prestigious New Comic Artist Contest for *Those Selfish Aliens*. Later that same year, her boy-meets-alien comedy series, *Urusei Yatsura*, was serialized in *Weekly Shonen Sunday*. This phenomenally successful manga series was adapted into anime format and spawned a TV series and half a dozen theatrical-release movies, all incredibly popular in their own right. Takahashi followed up the success of her debut series with one blockbuster hit after another—*Maison Ikkoku* ran from 1980 to 1987, *Ranma 1/2* from 1987 to 1996, and *Inuyasha* from 1996 to 2008. Other notable works include *Mermaid Saga*, *Rumic Theater*, and *One-Pound Gospel*.

Takahashi was inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Awards Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2019, she won the Grand Prix at FIDB Angoulême. She won the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award twice in her career, once for *Urusei Yatsura* in 1981 and the second time for *Inuyasha* in 2002. Her series have sold over 200 million copies worldwide as of March 2017. A majority of the Takahashi canon has been adapted into other media such as anime, live-action TV series, and film. Takahashi's manga, as well as the other formats her work has been adapted into, have continued to delight generations of fans around the world. Distinguished by her wonderfully endearing characters, Takahashi's work adeptly incorporates a wide variety of elements such as comedy, romance, fantasy, and martial arts. While her series are difficult to pin down into one simple genre, the signature style she has created has come to be known as the "Rumic World." Rumiko Takahashi is an artist who truly represents the very best from the world of manga. Her current series *RIN-NE* is available in North America from VIZ Media.



URUSEI YATSURA

VIZ Signature Edition

Vol. 4

STORY AND ART BY

RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

URUSEI YATSURA [SHINSOBAN] Vol. 7, 8

by Rumiko TAKAHASHI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

URUSEI YATSURA is rated T+ for Older Teen and
is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume
contains brief nudity and fantasy violence.